

QUARTERLY ISSUES PROGRAM

LIST FOR

WWLP – SPRINGFIELD, MA

Issues Program List Herein
Covers the Period
APRIL 1, 2012 through JUNE 30, 2012

The following is WWLP programming addressing Crime during the 2nd quarter of 2012. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.

News 04/01/12 6pm : 30

A bomb scare in Wilbraham led to the evacuation of the YMCA and surrounding sports fields at Post Office Park off Boston Road late this afternoon. A Wilbraham Fire Department employee told 22News someone called at 3pm to report a suspicious device outside the YMCA. Hazmat teams from the Northampton State Police barracks and the state Fire Marshal's office were called in. A bomb squad worker told 22News the device was a naval sonar battery that had the word "explosive" on the outside he explained it's apparently packed with lithium batteries. They don't know how it got there but they know it was there for at least 24 hours, because a witness recalled seeing it earlier. YMCA Executive Director Julie Costello told 22News the Y has since re-opened.

News 04/01/12 9am : 30

A police chase from Holyoke to South Hadley ended in a car crash on Saturday night. Holyoke Police Sgt. John Hart told 22News the chase ended on Route 116 in South Hadley when the suspect crashed the car. The suspect then took off on foot but ended up under arrest. It's unclear why the driver took off. He was taken to Baystate Medical Center where he was treated and released with minor injuries. Sgt. Hart told 22News he is being charged with driving without a license, speeding and failure to stop for police.

News 04/01/12 9am : 30

Uziel Soto of Springfield was arrested after allegedly assaulting two Springfield police officers after a domestic dispute in the Liberty Heights section of the city. Springfield Lt. James Rosso told 22news Soto held his girlfriend and several of her family members at gunpoint at 66 Stockman Street around 7 last night. Soto tried to get away from police by attacking them. Soto then jumped from the third floor window. Both police officers were taken to the hospital and have been released. Soto is still getting treated for a leg injury. He's being charged with several counts of assault by means of a dangerous weapon, assault and battery and two counts of assault and battery against a police officer.

News 04/02/12 6pm : 30

Former state Treasurer and gubernatorial candidate Timothy Cahill has been indicted on public corruption charges. Former state Treasurer Timothy Cahill has been indicted on public corruption, fraud and conspiracy charges for his alleged role in using the state Lottery to fund ads intended to promote his own 2010 campaign for governor. Attorney General Martha Coakley said a Suffolk County Grand Jury indicted Cahill for violating and conspiracy to

violate the State Ethics Law, as well as one count of Procurement fraud and conspiracy to commit procurement fraud. Coakley alleges that Cahill authorized a \$1.5 million dollar ad campaign, using taxpayer dollars, designed to tout the Lottery as "the most successful in America" and a "consistently well-managed lottery" during an 8-week period, beginning September 2010. Though Cahill's face did not appear in the ads, Cahill focused his own gubernatorial campaign on his experience managing the Lottery. Cahill's attorney, E. Peter Parker, has issued a statement. He says "I am surprised to hear about an indictment. I have seen no evidence of criminal conduct by anybody; Treasurer Cahill has an obligation to maximize Lottery revenues. He and the Lottery made the right choice to run the ads." Along with the former state Treasurer, his former Campaign Manager Scott Campbell was indicted on similar charges, as well as his former Chief of Staff at the Lottery Alfred Grazioso, on two counts of Obstruction of Justice.

News **04/03/12** **6pm** **: 30**

Longmeadow Police are also searching for the man who robbed the Hampden Bank branch on Longmeadow Street on March 29th. The man is black, 6 feet tall with a medium to heavy build. He was wearing a Red Sox cap. Police don't believe this robbery is related to the Berkshire Bank robbery. Hampden Bank is offering a reward for information leading to an arrest.

News **04/03/12** **6pm** **: 30**

Granby Police have arrested Eric Lacoste at his home on Darnell Avenue in Granby Monday night on child porn charges. Granby Police Chief Alan Wishart told 22News in a news release that Granby Police, State Police and the Northwestern District attorney's office arrested Lacoste on charges of disseminating obscenity to minors and posing a child for sexual photographs. He pleaded not guilty to child porn charges at his arraignment in Eastern Hampshire District Court in Belchertown. He was released, but with numerous conditions, which include wearing a electronic monitoring device.

News **04/04/12** **5pm** **: 30**

A man and three women were arrested yesterday in the parking lot of the Cumberland Farms Store at 798 Carew Street in Springfield after narcotics officers observed an alleged drug deal taking place. Sgt. John Delaney told 22News, surveillance officers saw the three women buy heroin from 21 year old Alexis Garcia of Springfield. Garcia was arrested and so were 25 year old Catrina Lanier of Warren, 25 year old Sandi Dailey of Palmer and 29 year old Beth Garceau of Ware. All face possession of heroin charges and face arraignment in Springfield District Court.

News **04/05/12** **5pm** **: 30**

A production manager accused of stealing \$160,000 from the company he worked for in the Berkshires has pleading not guilty to larceny and other charges. Authorities said 52-year-old Kenneth Sigsbury of Vermont allegedly stole the money from Berkshire Anodizing in North

Adams between February and December of 2011. The company specializes in placing a protective anti-corrosion coating on aluminum tubing. Authorities said he allegedly used the money to feed an addiction to prescription painkillers.

News **04/05/12** **11pm** **: 30**

A bizarre attempt to break into a recently closed restaurant in downtown Springfield. Springfield Police Captain William Collins told 22News the suspect attempted to climb through a vent on the roof of Lido's restaurant tonight but he didn't make it very far. The suspect only made it slightly into the vent before he got stuck. The fire department was called in to help free the man from the vent. He was arrested and charged. The owner's of Lido's told 22News the suspect is a former restaurant employee.

News **04/06/12** **5pm** **: 30**

54 year-old Stuart Zembrowski of Chicopee has pleaded not guilty to charges related to nearly 20 arsons and other crimes in the Berkshires over the past several years. The Berkshire District Attorney's office said 54-year-old Stuart Zebrowski of Chicopee was arraigned today in Court. The Judge ordered him held until a dangerousness hearing April 12th. Zebrowski was arrested Thursday in Great Barrington and charged in connection with 15 brush fires and four building fires. He is also charged with breaking and entering, larceny of a building and larceny under \$250.

News **04/07/12** **6pm** **: 30**

One Westfield Police officer is in the hospital after being stabbed by a man who was then shot dead by another officer. What started out as an argument ended with one police officer in the hospital and one man dead. All events which happened after police were notified of a disturbance early Saturday morning. The call came from a woman who lives in this building, she told police that her ex-husband was trying to break down her front door. But when police arrived, the domestic disturbance took a turn for the violent. The cops telling the guy get on the ground and then we hear like one gunshot and then there's was four more repeatedly after that and it was like, I just stayed in the apartment I wasn't coming out. Westfield Police Captain Michael McCabe told 22News an officer was stabbed while trying to calm down Douglas Musto. Musto was then tazed by the back up officer, but that didn't work. Because according to McCabe Musto continued to stab the officer and was then shot by the other cop. Musto died and those who live in the area say the officer's actions were justified. Police say Musto had a criminal background. The officer, who was stabbed sustained injuries to his upper thigh, was treated at Bay State Medical Center and is expected to be okay. The investigation is now in the hands of the Hampden County District Attorney and the Massachusetts State Police.

News **04/09/12** **6pm** **: 30**

Doug Morse, the brother of Holyoke's mayor is being held on \$100,000 bail for his alleged role in a Longmeadow bank robbery. Morse entered a not guilty plea during his appearance

at Springfield District Court late this morning. Longmeadow Police had a warrant out for Morse's arrest on charges that he was the getaway driver during the March 24 robbery of the Berkshire Bank branch on Route 5. The alleged robber, Desiree Ferreira, turned herself in to Longmeadow Police on April 2nd. Holyoke Mayor Alex Morse previously released statements that his brother "has struggled with addiction his entire adult life." The mayor thanked people for their support and asked for privacy.

News **04/10/12** **6pm** **: 30**

"Operation Corral" has rounded up 32 men in Massachusetts all charged with child pornography. At State Police Headquarters in Framingham, state, local, and federal law enforcement announced the results of a weeklong sweep of child pornography suspects. Three of those arrested were from western Massachusetts. They are: Eric Lacoste of Granby, Scott Muir of Stockbridge, and Craig Cilley of Belchertown.

News **04/10/12** **5pm** **: 30**

An alleged shoplifter may have gone too far. 44 year-old Denie Irizarry is accused of stealing several items from the Pride convenience store on Columbus Avenue in Springfield late last night including a pack of gum a police officer had just purchased. Police Sgt. John Delany told 22news when police followed Irizarry out of the store he allegedly tried to get rid of several food items taken from the store. Delany said when Irizarry was arrested police found drugs as well as the pack of missing gum.

News **04/10/12** **12pm** **: 30**

Police say a 5-year-old boy in Connecticut brought 50 packets of heroin to school for show and tell. The Connecticut Post reports that the boy wore his stepfather's jacket to school and when it came time for his show-and-tell presentation, he displayed the bags of heroin. The teacher confiscated the drugs and when the stepfather went to the school to retrieve them police were there to arrest him. The boy is now in state custody until other relatives can be found.

News **04/12/12** **5pm** **: 30**

Springfield police have arrested a woman they say allegedly went after her ex with a stun gun. Sgt. John Delaney told 22News that 49 year old Judith Contant is charged with assault and battery, home invasion, and carrying a dangerous weapon. According to Delaney, Contant allegedly forced her way into to her ex-boyfriend's home at 28 Parker Street around one this morning. Delaney said she then allegedly punched a roommate in the face, and then pulled out a stun gun chasing the ex-boyfriend around in an effort to shock him.

News **04/13/12** **6pm** **: 30**

22News has team coverage of Chicopee shooting that left a state trooper injured and the suspected gunman dead. Here's how the incident played out. Chicopee police got the call that shots were fired around 7:45 this morning, near the corner of West and Center Streets. Chicopee police and State police returned fire on the man who was firing. During the standoff, Massachusetts State police trooper John Vasquez was shot in the leg and hand. He is expected to be okay. The suspect, Carlos Laguer of Springfield, was found dead around 10am at a home at 102 West Street. A woman and boy were found in the home as well, both were safe.

News **04/13/12** **6pm** **: 30**

Tonight, the suspect is dead, a state trooper is in the hospital recovering and an entire neighborhood has been left on edge. Chaos in Chicopee today where a suspect armed with a semi-automatic weapon went on a shooting spree around 7:45 Friday morning. Massachusetts State Trooper John Vasquez caught in the cross fire shot twice. As that cruiser drove away with the injured trooper, the suspect continued firing at that cruiser. As they headed to Baystate Medical Center, the suspect then found his way into an apartment on West Street at the time a woman and a young boy were inside, they made it out shaken, but safe. As the standoff continued, concerned neighbors like Matt Lawrence, who rode his bike from Holyoke to Chicopee watched as Chicopee Police, State Police, the FBI and others surrounded the apartment. As this went on nearby schools were on lockdown. Roads were closed and the exit off of 391 was blocked. Fearing the suspect was still armed, they sent a robot with a camera to the front door. That's when they learned the suspect was dead. Trooper Vasquez is out of surgery, he remains in the hospital where he is expected to recover. Police have yet to identify the suspect, who again, was found dead in an apartment on West Street.

News **04/13/12** **11pm** **: 30**

A fugitive from Texas was arrested in West Springfield today. According to a news release from the U.S. Marshals Service, 37 year old Xavier Toca was taken into custody at the Clarion Hotel on Riverdale Road around 3:30 this afternoon. A warrant was issued for Toca's arrest in August 2011 after he violated the terms of his federal supervised release. He was originally convicted in 2005 for possession with intent to distribute cocaine. The Marshals Service says Toca has ties to street gangs in Texas and has a very violent criminal history.

News **04/14/12** **6pm** **: 30**

We're learning more tonight about the suspect who shot a state trooper and caused a nearly three hour stand-off that resulted in his own death in Chicopee Friday. The morning after a two hour long stand-off in Chicopee passersby got a glimpse at the house that was at the center of it all. Police say 41-year-old Carlos Laguer of Springfield opened fire on West Street Friday morning, shooting at anything in sight, including Massachusetts State Police Trooper John Vasquez who took at least two bullets. At 7:45 Friday morning when this shooting started there were a number of people here as there typically are, there were people filling up their gas tanks here, they were grabbing a cup of coffee and witnesses here say, no

one was safe. To the community, an unstable gunman was on the loose, to Migdalia Rios, it was her ex-husband, making a terrible mistake. Rios, who didn't want her full face shown, had three children with Laguer. Here he is with his 16-year-old, Jean Carlos Laguer, who was shot and killed in Holyoke back in September of 2010. Rios says their son's death was a family tragedy Laguer never recovered from. She says that combined with an unhealthy relationship with a girlfriend, who lived in the West Street home, and had a restraining order against him, sent him over the top resulting in this massive shooting spree that ended when Laguer himself was found dead. While it's a tragedy for Rios and her family, law enforcement call it a miracle, he was the only death in the shooting spree that put dozens of people, including children, in harms way.

News **04/16/12** **4:30am** **: 30**

A shooting in Springfield wounded two people this morning. Detectives found about a dozen shell casings outside 52 Washburn Street. Captain Cheryl Claprood told 22News that two victims are at Baystate Medical Center, but they're expected to be okay. At this hour, police are still investigating.

News **04/17/12** **6pm** **: 30**

The man accused of assaulting a Chicopee police officer claims he was the one attacked. 40-year-old Jay DiRico is facing a number of charges including assault with the intent to murder. He was in Chicopee District Court this afternoon, where he showed the judge his injuries from Sunday's fight. Prosecutors say Chicopee police officer Jeffrey Couture (coo-chure) , who was not in court, was attacked, when he was helping DiRico's girlfriend get her things from DiRico's house. They claim Couture was punched in the head a number of times and required stitches for his injuries. In court, DiRico says he was the one attacked.

News **04/17/12** **12pm** **: 30**

The fatal stabbing of a beloved 67-year-old grandmother has shaken a safe South Boston neighborhood. The woman was found dead in her home at about 10 a.m. on Monday. She was taken to a hospital where she was pronounced dead. Police did not disclose the victim's name, but state Sen. Jack Hart, who represents the neighborhood, identified her as family friend Barbara Coyne. Hart says violent crime is rare in the neighborhood. Police would not speculate on a motive in the murder.

News **04/18/12** **6pm** **: 30**

An accused murderer who's been on the run for 11 years was arrested in Holyoke today. The US Marshals fugitive task force, along with Holyoke and Springfield Police, and the State Police Violent Fugitive Team picked up 32 year old Vicky Bonilla. Bonilla is wanted for a 2001 murder in West Virginia. Task force members surrounded Bonilla today at a home on Leary Drive in Holyoke. The US Marshals service told 22News their office is investigating whether Bonilla is a sex offender who failed to register under federal law.

News **04/18/12** **5pm** **: 30**

About a dozen Occupy New Haven demonstrators were arrested today as police cleared out the protesters after the city won a court battle. A federal appeals court ruled Tuesday that the protesters do not have the right to stay on the city green. Many of them packed up their belongings within hours, but police said about 50 protesters still were in the area when they arrived to clear the camp. Some of the protesters had to be carried away after refusing to leave, police said. No injuries were reported.

News **04/19/12** **6pm** **: 30**

That story in a moment but first new information's been just release about that shootout with police in Chicopee. Autopsy results show the suspect in last Friday's police standoff committed suicide. According to a preliminary report from the Hampden County District Attorney's Office, 41-year old Carlos Gonzalez- Laguar died from a single, self-inflicted gun shot wound to the head. He also suffered additional gunshot injures to his abdomen and arm that appeared to have been from police bullets but that part of the investigation is not complete. The report also revealed that a bystander was shot in the leg. That woman was treated and released from the hospital.

News **04/19/12** **11pm** **: 30**

Chicopee police arrested a suspect at Szot Park around 6:30pm tonight after a fight involving a knife. Lt. Patrick Major told 22News the suspect is facing charges of assault with a dangerous weapon. There were no serious injuries, but one person was visibly bloodied. There were about two dozen people, including small children in that section of the park during the fight. The arrests were made on the Armory Drive end of Szot Park, near Abby Memorial Drive, police did find the knife.

News **04/20/12** **6am** **: 30**

Two men are recovering from stab wounds this morning after an altercation in Holyoke. It happened last night at 542 South Bridge Street, just after 10:30. Lt. Jim Albert told 22News one of the men was taken to Baystate Medical Center the other was taken to Holyoke Medical Center. Both are expected to be okay. Detectives are still investigating but so far, no charges have been filed.

News **04/22/12** **6pm** **: 30**

A Massachusetts woman was kicked off an airplane in Maine this weekend for causing a disturbance onboard. Police say 21-year-old Marangely Torres of Brockton, Mass., "became disruptive" before boarding the Boston-bound plane at Northern Maine Regional Airport. They say she eventually calmed down and was allowed on the flight, but then started causing problems again. The pilot brought the plane back to the gate, where an officer boarded the plane and removed Torres. She'll answer to disorderly conduct charges in court on June 20.

News **04/22/12** **7am** **: 30**

Police in Ludlow need your help to find the men who robbed a Cumberland Farms on West Street. Ludlow Sergeant Michael Brennan told 22News two armed men with handguns and masks demanded money from the clerk and then ran away around 11:30 last night. A K9 from the Wilbraham Police Department tried to track the suspects. They only got away with \$40. If you have any information you can call the Ludlow Detective Bureau at 583-8305.

News **04/24/12** **6pm** **: 30**

An alleged case of animal cruelty in Connecticut after a horse is dragged by a pick-up truck. Connecticut State Police could file charges against Culver Modisette of Stafford. He is accused of dragging his horse, Annie, while the horse was tied to his truck. Annie got loose Monday morning and ended up on a neighbor's property. State Police said Modisette found the horse, and when the horse would obey he used a rope to tie Annie to the back bumper of his truck. A neighbor took pictures that showed the horse being pulled and the horse ended up on its side. Annie's owner described what happened.

News **04/24/12** **6pm** **: 30**

Timothy Mahoney of Westfield was arrested after police say he picked up a shipment of drugs in the mail. Shortly before noon Monday Amherst police arrested this man, 31-year-old Timothy Mahoney of Westfield, after he allegedly received a shipment containing multiple pounds of marijuana. The arrest follows an investigation with federal officials who found Mahoney was receiving shipments in the mail. Mahoney was stopped by police yesterday and arrested at this post office on University Drive in Amherst.

News **04/24/12** **12pm** **: 30**

Springfield police have arrested 11 alleged "johns" following a prostitution sting operation in the city's South End. Police Sgt. John Delaney told 22News that on Thursday afternoon an undercover woman detective posed as a prostitute at the corner of Locust Street and Palmer Avenue. During the next two hours eleven men approached her offering money or drugs in exchange for sex. Sgt. Delaney says all suspects are charged with sexual conduct for a fee. You can see the names with the pictures by going to our website at WWLP.com.

News **04/26/12** **6pm** **: 30**

West Springfield police have arrested two men that may be linked to several break-ins. Captain Dan Spaulding told 22News that several residents on Tatam Hill Road and Beverly Hills Streets reported items stolen from their cars Tuesday night. One witness described a suspicious vehicle. Police located that vehicle on Great Plains Road and arrested 25 year old Dimitry Bogomaz of West Springfield and 24 year old Shawn Kelly of Westfield. When police arrested the two they found several GPS units, radar detectors, jewelry and drugs. Right now police are still trying to confirm that these stolen items were related to the break-

ins. But residents say they were surprised this happened on their quiet street.

News **04/26/12** **4:30am** **: 30**

Two men are recovering from serious injuries after allegedly stabbing each other outside a Springfield pizza shop. It happened just after 11 o'clock last at 30 Fort Pleasant Ave. Captain Cheryl Claprood told 22News one of the men pulled out a knife and stabbed the other man in the neck. That man then went into the Pizza shop, got a knife of his own, came back outside and stabbed that man in the chest. Captain Claprood says both the men are not cooperating with police. They're hoping store surveillance video might be able to reveal enough evidence to charge the men.

News **04/28/12** **9am** **: 30**

Police recovered two allegedly stolen firearms during a drug raid at a West Springfield hotel. Springfield Police Sgt. John Delaney told 22News West Springfield police along with Springfield narcotics officers found an AR-15 high powered rifle with 9 magazines and 95 rounds of ammo as well as a loaded 45 caliber semi-automatic pistol inside a room at the Springfield Inn on Riverdale Street. Sgt. John Delaney told 22News the AR-15 was reported stolen in a house break in Berlin, Connecticut and the handgun was reported stolen in a housebreak in South Hadley. Police also arrested two suspects inside the hotel room. Both face several charges.

News **05/01/12** **6pm** **: 30**

Arraignment this afternoon for a man charged with animal cruelty for allegedly beating a bird of prey. And that attack happened in front of two police officers, who were able to arrest the suspect and save the bird. Springfield Police Officer Michael Goggin and his partner were heading back to the police station on Pearl Street when they noticed a hawk feeding on a pigeon. But as they tried to take a picture with their cell phones all of a sudden the hawk became the prey. The officers jumped out of their cruiser to stop the attack, at some point the cops say McKenzie also threw a log at the bird. The hawk was dazed, but eventually flew away. It remained perched on a nearby tree for the afternoon. 64 Year old George McKenzie was then arrested and charged with cruelty to animals. McKenzie's lawyer entered a not guilty plea on his behalf. Bail was set at one thousand dollars. It is McKenzie's first run in with the law. Officer Goggin said until the cuffs were on, McKenzie seemed to think he wasn't doing anything wrong. McKenzie's next court date is June 12th.

News **05/02/12** **6pm** **: 30**

Two people have been arrested and the search is on for a third suspect for last summer's murder of Jonathan Tallaj of Springfield. Springfield Police Sergeant John Delaney told 22News that Manuel Lora on the right and Priscilla Texidor on the left, both of 19 Gordon Street in Springfield was arrested last night. Both are charged with murdering Tallaj. Tallaj was shot and killed last August. Police are also looking for James Texidor of 14 Scott Street

in Springfield for murder. If you know where he is call Springfield police or you can text-a-tip.

News **05/03/12** **5pm** **: 30**

Federal prosecutors said 11 people are charged with running a major pharmaceutical theft ring that targeted warehouses and tractor-trailers around the country including one in Enfield. At a news conference this afternoon, Connecticut U.S. Attorney David Fein said one of those thefts involved an Eli Lilly warehouse in Connecticut in 2010. There is a video of the Enfield warehouse taken shortly after the heist. It's considered the largest such heist in the nation. About \$80 million in various medications were stolen. So far two men have been charged in connection with the Enfield heist. Here in Connecticut two brothers Amaury Villa and Amed Villa have been charged with participating in the theft of pharmaceuticals from an Enfield warehouse. Thousands of boxes of medications were recovered. Initial court appearances for the suspects are set to take place in Florida.

News **05/03/12** **6am** **: 30**

Eastern Mass. man is set to be arraigned today on murder charges in the deaths of his mother and grandmother. Twenty-three-year-old Joseph Wright was captured Tuesday in Canada, hours after the bodies were found outside a school in Saugus. Wright told police he used a knife to kill his mother and grandmother, and left the knife at his grandmother's apartment in the same building where his mother lived. He drove his grandmother's car to Canada, and blood was found at the apartments, on the car and on his clothing.

News **05/06/12** **6am** **: 30**

You're about to see some disturbing surveillance video of a man who allegedly stabbed a young Springfield woman after threatening her four year old daughter with the same knife on Friday night. This may not be appropriate for young viewers. This happened outside 455 Belmont Ave around 8:35 at night. Springfield Detective Jim McCoy told 22News, moments after this man stepped in front of the surveillance camera he attacked this young woman and eventually stabbed the woman in the collarbone area. Luckily it wasn't too severe a wound. Detective McCoy hopes someone might recognize the image captured by the camera at Ben Thanh Asian market in the city's forest park neighborhood. McCoy believes the man with the knife was trying to rob the woman when he stabbed her. If you have any information leading to the arrest of this suspect, contact the Springfield Detective Bureau at the number on your screen.

News **05/06/12** **9am** **: 30**

The search continues this morning for a man who fled police by jumping into the Connecticut River. It started as a breaking and entering call and quickly turned into a multi-town manhunt along the river. Springfield police Lt. James Rosso told 22news that at around 4 this morning they received a call of a man breaking in at 39 Lowell Street. When police arrived, the man ran down toward riverside road and jumped into the Connecticut River. Police and fire departments have put boats in the water to search for the man, and a state police helicopter

is also helping. Lt. Rosso says some of their concerns include how cold the river water is, and the heavy current due to recent rain. We'll continue to update you on that search on air, online and on the go at WWLP.com.

News **05/06/12** **9am** **: 30**

A young woman is recovering in the hospital after accidentally being shot by a police officer in Agawam. Lt. Richard Light told 22News at 4:30 Saturday morning, police were called to the Elizabeth Manor apartments at 238 Maple Street for a situation described as a breaking and entering and possible domestic dispute. Lt. Light said the officers heard yelling and glass breaking inside the apartment. In a statement sent to 22News, Light said quote "as police entry was being made, the weapon of one of the responding officers was discharged." End quote. The young woman was hit by the bullet and was taken to Baystate Medical Center. She is expected to survive. A suspect fled out the back of the apartment. Police found him, but there's no word if any charges have been filed. The case is now in the hands of State Police and the Hampden county district attorney.

News **05/06/12** **9am** **: 30**

Massachusetts State Police made 13 arrests at the sobriety checkpoint on Memorial Drive in Chicopee. Lt. Stephen Kelly from the Massachusetts State Police told 22News 6 out of the 13 arrests were for operating under the influence. 254 cars were stopped and screened. Last month the sobriety checkpoint was on Route 9 in Hadley.

News **05/07/12** **5pm** **: 30**

Springfield police have identified the man who they believe may have drowned in the Connecticut River while he was allegedly trying to get away from the police. Sergeant John Delaney told 22News that rescue teams have so far been unable to locate Jaylu Laboy of Springfield. According to Delaney, Laboy jumped into the river early Sunday morning as police were chasing him on foot. The chase began just before 4:00 A.M. when officers received a call about a housebreak at 39 Lowell Street, and found Laboy standing in the middle of the street.

News **05/09/12** **5pm** **: 30**

A state fire marshal investigator testified an arson suspect said he set fire to several Berkshire County buildings because he considered them eyesores. 54 year-old Stuart Zebrowski of Chicopee is accused of setting fire to this Great Barrington apartment building and three other vacant buildings. The investigator with the State Fire Marshal's office testified Zebrowski said people in the community should be thanking him. Zebrowski is also accused of setting 15 brush fires while on his route as a delivery driver for a Springfield laundry company.

News **05/09/12** **11pm** **: 30**

Springfield Police are searching for a man who they say robbed several offices on State Street over the weekend. Springfield Police Sgt. John Delaney told 22News the suspect broke down the doors of three separate offices and stole laptop computers, IPOD's and docking stations. The suspect was caught on tape leaving the building with the stolen items. If you know who this man is, please call the Springfield police department at 787-6355 or you can anonymously text-a-tip.

News **05/16/12** **12pm** **: 30**

Springfield police have caught a man they say robbed the same bank twice back in 2009. 45 year-old Kenneth Bolden was arrested by Springfield police this morning. Sergeant John Delaney told 22News that evidence linked Bolden to the robberies at the TD Bank on Sumner Avenue. The same bank branch was robbed on April 29 and again on September 26. Bolden will be arraigned today in Springfield District Court.

News **05/18/12** **5:30pm** **: 30**

State police say they found \$7,500 dollars worth of stolen merchandise inside a car they stopped on I-84 in Sturbridge Thursday night. According to State Police media relations, troopers pulled over the car because they thought the driver was speeding. Inside they found all this merchandise. The three people inside the car Tarrie Lewis, Rashaan Frederick, and Quintrell Dailey all from Connecticut arrested. The loss prevention manager of TJ Maxx identified some of the merchandise and believes the three were working a theft ring where they stole the items and returned them for store credit.

News **05/19/12** **9am** **: 30**

Massachusetts State Police arrested ten drivers at the sobriety checkpoint on West Columbus Avenue in Springfield overnight. Eric Meshke from the Massachusetts State Police told 22News all of the arrests were for operating under the influence. The last sobriety checkpoint was held a few weeks ago on Memorial Drive in Chicopee.

News **05/20/12** **7am** **: 30**

Springfield police are investigating an alleged home invasion. Captain Cheryl Claprood told 22News an estranged boyfriend entered a home at 88 Acushnet Avenue just before 3 this morning. He reportedly entered the apartment building on the second floor with a knife. Police arrested the man but have not released his name yet.

News **05/20/12** **7am** **: 30**

49-year-old Tammy Walker of Chicopee is in jail after reportedly resisting arrest on interstate 291 at exit 5 in Chicopee. Sergeant Walter Combs at the Springfield State Police barracks told 22News just before 10 last night Massachusetts State Trooper Amy Waterman attempted to remove Walker from the car but she pulled off hitting Trooper Waterman's arm. After driving 200 yards Walker ran a red light at Interstate 90 hitting a Hyundai Santa Fe. The

three passengers in that car were taken to area hospitals. Trooper Waterman suffered minor injuries and wasn't taken to the hospital. Walker is facing several charges including operating under the influence of alcohol which is her 3rd offense. She will be arraigned in Chicopee District Court tomorrow. Bail is set for \$12,500 dollars

News **05/21/12** **6pm** **: 30**

A police chase resulted in the lockdown of two Springfield schools this morning. Springfield Police Sergeant John Delaney told 22News, police were chasing 36-year-old Gerald Williams of Springfield. The chase apparently brought them near the Rebecca Johnson School, where there were children outside. As a precaution, they locked down that school and the Margaret Ells School nearby to keep the suspect from running into the school. Classes went on as usual and no children were harmed, but some parents still chose to take their kids out of school for the day.

News **05/22/12** **4:30am** **:30**

32-year-old-Wayne Szczepanik of Southwick will be back in court to answer to charges of 1st degree sex assault. Police say the assault happened just across the Connecticut state line in Suffield. He turned himself into police, but was released on a \$100,000 bond.

News **05/23/12** **5pm** **:30**

32 year-old Adam Knurek of Springfield faces charges for allegedly dousing his mother with gasoline during a domestic dispute. Sgt. John Delaney told 22News that Knurek was arrested at his Bolton Street home Tuesday evening. He faces arson, assault and other charges. According to Delaney, police were called to the house after Knurek's 54 year-old mother called 9-1-1. Delaney said the operator could hear the voice of a man yelling "light her up like a candle!" Knurek's mother not seriously injured, she was treated for gasoline splashed in her eyes.

News **05/24/12** **6pm** **:30**

Several birds were stolen from the Dakin Animal Adoption Center in Springfield, after someone smashed a window and broke into the shelter. Police and shelter staff are hoping to track down the person or people behind this bizarre break-in. Here's what we know so far sometime between 8 and 9 Tuesday night, someone broke into the shelter here at 171 Union Street in Springfield. Springfield Police Sgt John Delaney told 22News the thief or thieves stole two cages containing three birds: a pair of parakeets named "Donna" and "Scotty," and a cockatiel named "Precious." Director Candy Lash showed us the thieves tried breaking a window by throwing a cinder block. When that didn't work, they smashed in the glass pane of a rear door. Got inside busted through an alarmed interior door and made their way into the small animal and bird room. That's when they stole two covered cages with the birds inside. Candy Lash said the Center's been the victim of numerous vandalism attacks in recent months. It's a huge blow to the Humane Society, which gets by solely on donations.

News **05/25/12** **5:30pm** **:30**

On May 25, 1979, six-year-old Etan Patz left for school and never came back. Today, exactly 33 years after his disappearance, police have charged 51 year old Pedro Hernandez with the murder of Patz. Hernandez is undergoing a psychological evaluation while facing a bedside arraignment. Police said, he confessed to luring Patz from a school bus stop and choking him. Patz was the first child ever to appear on a milk carton and his disappearance led to the observance of National Missing Children's Day.

News **05/25/12** **11pm** **:30**

A West Springfield Christian business is picking up the pieces after a bold break-in. "Thou shalt not steal", one of the Ten Commandments every Christian knows but the religious memorabilia that hangs on the walls at Morningstar Christian Bookstore wasn't enough to shame a thief out of breaking in, robbing and vandalizing the place last Thursday. After emptying the cash register and flicking a cigarette butt on the floor, the thief took off. And just days later, the Christian store was targeted again. This time by four young teens who ran off after stealing merchandise and ransacking the store. West Springfield police eventually caught them red-handed with five religious t-shirts and a bible. Clerk Dean Howard told 22News while he's disappointed in the teens' behavior, he's more sad than angry. If you have any information about the break-in, you're asked to call West Springfield police.

News **05/28/12** **12pm** **:30**

There was a shooting in Boston's Mattapan neighborhood last night with multiple victims. WHDH-TV is reporting six people needed treatment. Police are searching for at least four men who left the area where the shooting happened.

News **05/30/12** **6pm** **:30**

Scares for several people in a Springfield apartment after four firebombs were thrown at their house. The tenants say they barely avoided disaster. That boom was the sound of four fire bombs that were thrown at this home at 79 Oak Street in Springfield. Aide to the Springfield Fire Commissioner Dennis Leger told 22News the fire bombs were small containers filled with flammable liquid, set on fire, and then designed to explode when they hit the home. None of the explosive devices worked as planned, but some of the flammable liquid inside spilled out, causing at least two small fires. It's not clear why the fire bombs were thrown at the home, but those who live here says there's no reason they should be targeted. Police do not have any suspects.

News **05/30/12** **11pm** **:30**

Springfield Police are asking for your help identifying two thieves who stole eight chainsaws from Lowe's back in February. Springfield Police Sgt. John Delaney told 22News that on February 3 and 6, the two men pushed carriages through the store, put the chain saws inside, and then walked out the door. The stolen chainsaws, which retailed for \$766 each, are valued at \$6,128 total. Police are hoping that police will recognize the men in the

photographs. If you have any information, call Springfield Police Detectives at 787-6355, or you can anonymously text-a-tip.

News **05/31/12** **6pm** **:30**

A massive fire destroyed a home in Springfield's Old Hill neighborhood this morning. Dennis Leger, Aide to the Fire Commissioner, told 22News the fire is considered suspicious and the Arson squad is looking into the cause. The fire started around 10:30am on Albemarle Street, which is between American International College and Springfield College. Three people were home at the time, but they all got out safely. Evins Brantley owns the home.

News **06/04/12** **6pm** **:30**

Springfield police are mourning the loss of one of their own. A Springfield police officer and one other man were killed following an instance of domestic violence this afternoon. A Springfield police officer has been shot and killed while responding to a report of a domestic disturbance. Springfield police Sgt. John Delaney confirmed that an officer was fatally shot at the Lawton Arms apartment complex shortly after 1 p.m. Monday. Delaney updated an earlier report that two other people were also killed, saying that a woman who was shot remains in critical condition. Delaney said a man who died shot the woman and the officer before killing himself. The Republican newspaper of Springfield identified the officer as Kevin Ambrose, a 36-year veteran of the Springfield police force. Two Springfield officers were gunned down during a traffic stop nearly 27 years ago, the last time a city officer was killed in the line of duty. Police planned a news conference late Monday afternoon.

News **06/04/12** **6pm** **:30**

New details in the trial of Lawrence Vincent, who was convicted of bank fraud charges which led to the shutdown of Mastex industries in Holyoke. During his sentencing hearing at US District court in Springfield today, the Longmeadow man was sentenced to serve a year and a day in prison. Federal prosecutors say bank fraud led to the 2009 shutdown of Mastex Industries. Three of the company's owners were convicted in Federal Court on fraud charges in connection with \$11 million worth of credit TD Bank gave the company. All three pled guilty to the charges.

News **06/04/12** **5:30pm** **:30**

Two people, including one Springfield police officer, are dead and one woman is in critical condition after a shooting incident at the Lawton Arms apartment complex in Springfield. A Springfield police officer has been killed in the line of duty, another man has been killed, and a woman is in critical condition following an apparent domestic dispute. Police have updated an earlier report that had stated that three people had been killed, clarifying that the woman who had been shot remains in critical condition. Springfield Police Sgt. John Delaney told 22News that the man who died had shot the woman and the officer before killing himself. There is no word on the identities of the officer or the other two people. Following the shooting after 1:00, police blocked-off a portion of Lawton Street, which is near the

intersection of Wilbraham Road and Breckwood Boulevard. Dozens of police cars are in the area, as the investigation focused on an apartment at the Lawton Arms complex. District Attorney Mark Mastroianni was also at the apartment complex following the shooting, but he has since left. The nearby Duggan Middle School was temporarily put on lockdown, according to Springfield Public Schools spokesperson Azell Cavaan. She said that no one was allowed to enter or exit for about five minutes, but the lockdown was lifted after the area deemed "safe" by police. Police are holding a 6:00pm news conference at department headquarters on Pearl Street, where the flag has been lowered to half-staff in mourning.

News **06/04/12** **6am** **:30**

A teenage girl is dead and another critically injured after a shooting in Cambridge. Investigators say the girl's ages 16 and 17 were sitting on the porch of a home when they were shot last night. Both were taken to a hospital where one of the victims died. The second victim remains in critical condition. Their names have not been released and no arrests have been made.

News **06/05/12** **5:30pm** **:30**

A trial date has been set for Jennifer Lemelin, the woman who was accused of abusing a baby at a day care center in Springfield last spring. The former day care center worker was charged with Assault and Battery on a Child after allegedly injuring a 7 month old boy named Jordan. He suffered bleeding around his brain and was hospitalized for several days after the alleged assault. Lemelin's attorney told the 22News I-Team she denies all charges. She is scheduled to be back in court for a final pre-trial conference on December 12th. Her trial is scheduled for January 14th, 2013.

News **06/13/12** **6pm** **:30**

Police at Central Connecticut State University in New Britain said a man suspected of phoning in a threat that caused a campus lock down was involved in a similar case a year ago. Campus police told our sister station WTNH-TV that Rufino Cotto Martinez called-in the threat around 10:00 this morning. Police think the threat was directed at a contract employee on the New Britain campus. Students and staff were told to stay where they were as police investigated. Officers have made contact with Martinez, but they are still trying to find him.

News **06/13/12** **5:30pm** **:30**

Springfield police are crediting the public and the media with helping them find a man accused of stealing thousands of dollars in chainsaws from a home improvement store. Police Sgt. John Delaney told 22News that Domingo Rodriguez, Jr. turned himself in last Wednesday after 22News and other media outlets aired store surveillance video of the thefts. On four separate occasions in February and April, chainsaws were stolen from the Lowe's Home Improvement store on Boston Road. After the images were broadcast, Delaney said, the department began receiving many text-a-tips, as well as calls. After an investigation by the department's theft squad, a warrant was issued for Rodriguez's arrest.

News **06/14/12** **6pm** **:30**

A GPS tracking device led Springfield police to the man they say set fire to an abandoned house in the Six Corners sections of Springfield this weekend. Jeremy Morin of Springfield is being charged with arson of a dwelling for the fire on Sunday. Springfield Police Sergeant John Delaney told 22News a GPS tracking device Morin was equipped with indicated he was at 251 Central Street at the time of the fire. Police confronted him at the Hampden County Hall of Justice on Tuesday where he was being held for a probation violation. Delaney says Morin was arrested for allegedly setting a fire on State Street back in 2002.

News **06/15/12** **11pm** **:30**

A Florida man formally denied a charge he stole \$80 million dollars in prescription drugs from an Enfield, Connecticut warehouse in 2010. Prosecutors say Amed Villa and his brother broke into the Enfield warehouse of pharmaceutical giant Eli Lilly by scaling an exterior wall and cutting a hole in the warehouse roof. They used a forklift to load pallets of drugs into a getaway vehicle. Officials are calling the heist the biggest in Connecticut history.

News **06/15/12** **9am** **:30**

22-year-old Ashley Jimenez of Springfield has been arrested after allegedly stabbing a woman early this morning. Springfield Police Captain Cheryl Claprood told 22News the woman was cut under her eye shortly after three at 103 Allen Park Road. Claprood said the two did know each other. The stabbing victim was taken to Baystate Medical Center and she's expected to be ok. Jimenez is being charged in the attack.

News **06/17/12** **11pm** **:30**

Springfield Police ended a close to five hour stand-off with a potentially dangerous suspect around 4pm this afternoon. This is the man who barricaded himself in an apartment building on Locust Street in the cities South End. Springfield Police Lt. Robert Moynihan told 22News the man was unstable and made threats that he would kill himself or shoot any police officer. Police found him hiding in his bedroom. Neighbors told 22News the man was in the street naked before going into his apartment building.

News **06/18/12** **6pm** **:30**

A large fight on Locust Street in Springfield ended with six people under arrest and five police officers injured. Today, two of those suspects appeared in court, claiming they did nothing wrong. It was a violent Father's Day on Locust Street in Springfield. Springfield Police Officer Charles Youmans said it began as a domestic dispute between Luis Ocasio and his child's mother. But it quickly escalated into a fight involving at least ten people. Ocasio allegedly came at the woman with a baseball bat and kicked her car. Then another man, Juan Sanchez threw a bottle out of a window. Both men ran inside to avoid being arrested,

but police followed. That's when Yolandita Ocasio allegedly attacked one of those officers, biting his pinky and hitting him with a folding chair. A claim she denied in court Monday. Her lawyer said his client was trying to videotape the whole incident. Video her friends gave to 22News. Luis Ocasio showed up in court Monday but will not be arraigned until he undergoes a clinical evaluation.

Four other people involved in the fight will be in court June 20th. One officer was treated at Baystate Medical Center and four others had minor injuries.

News **06/20/12** **6pm** **:30**

Ludlow police are asking for your help identifying two people who stole thousands of dollars worth of perfume. Take a look at this photo that was captured from surveillance video from CVS pharmacy in Chicopee. Police believe these two also stole more than 3,000 dollars worth of perfume from the CVS on Center Street in Ludlow as well. The thieves took perfume from the Chicopee store on the 11th and struck the Ludlow store just days later. And if they try and sell the stolen items the person buying them would be guilty of a crime as well.

News **06/20/12** **5pm** **:30**

A man was stabbed early this morning while fishing alone along the Chicopee river. Chicopee Detective Lt. Mark Higgins confirmed that someone stabbed a fisherman about 2:30 this morning possibly under interstate 391. The wounded man, who friends described as disabled, didn't call police until he got home. A friend of the victim told 22News he often goes fishing alone, not a good idea.

News **06/20/12** **12pm** **:30**

A 19 year old man has been arrested for throwing a rock at a tractor trailer while it was traveling through Springfield. Officer Richard Rodrigues told 22news that Melvin Cruz Arroyo was walking on the sidewalk on Plainfield Street when he allegedly threw the rocks at the cab of the truck. The driver of the truck told nearby police who chased Arroyo and arrested him. Officer Rodrigues says rock throwing in the area of Plainfield and West Streets has been a persistent problem. They have increased patrols through that area to crack down on people throwing rocks at cars.

News **06/20/12** **12pm** **:30**

An 18-year-old man is in the hospital with serious injuries after getting stabbed in the chest in Springfield. Police Captain William Collins told 22News they found the man bleeding in the middle of the road just after 8:00 last night on Niagara Street with a large crowd of people surrounding him. Collins says none of those people are cooperating with police. The man was taken to Baystate Medical Center where his condition is unknown.

News **06/21/12** **5pm** **:30**

Springfield Police are looking into where two Molotov Cocktails found in the woods near several homes came from. Police Captain Cheryl Claprood told 22News that the potentially explosive devices had been in the woods near Hamburg and Bevier Streets for some time. Police found them as they responded to a call about teenagers loitering in the woods. The devices did not cause any fires or damage. Claprood said that it is not clear whether the teens had anything to do with the Molotov Cocktails.

News **06/22/12** **5am** **:30**

Police in Springfield say someone tried to abduct two teenage girls in the Forest Park neighborhood on Wednesday and they think there might be one victim who didn't get away. Detective James Gormally told 22News the 13 year old girls were walking near Dickinson and Keith streets when a man tried to pull them into a white van. They told police there was a woman in the van waving at them to run. Police say a Hispanic man was driving the large white van with green plates. A white man with tongue and eyebrow piercings tried to pull the girls inside. If you see the van, Detective Gormally asks you to call 911. If you have any information call the number on your screen.

News **06/23/12** **9am** **:30**

Massachusetts State Police made 8 arrests at a sobriety check point on West Columbus Avenue in Springfield Friday night. Trooper Stone told 22News, all 8 people were allegedly driving under the influence. Lt. John Healy who was at the checkpoint said, since they started doing these screenings in Springfield in 2008, they've made over 200 arrests. And he said their goal is to get that number down to zero.

News **06/24/12** **6pm** **:30**

We begin with breaking news out of Huntington where there are new developments happening right now in the search for a missing 30 year old woman. Family members of Jessica Dana of Huntington tell 22News the mother of two has been missing since late Friday night after reportedly arguing with her boyfriend; Jessica left her home on Rocky Brook Drive. We're now hearing reports that there is a manhunt underway right now in that area. We have a crew on the way. Massachusetts state police have confirmed there is a search for a male suspect in the woods. Neighbors are telling 22News they've been told to stay indoors and keep their doors locked. Lt. John Healy of the Northampton State Police barracks told 22News the search for Jessica is still ongoing. Jessica is five feet tall and weighs 95 pounds and has many tattoos. If you know where to find Jessica Dana please call Russell State Police at 1-413-862-3312.

News **06/25/12** **6pm** **:30**

The weekend-long search for a missing mother of three ended tragically in Huntington last night. Jessica Dana's body was found in cardboard box behind her home, now her boyfriend is facing charges; a sad ending to the search for Jessica Dana, a mother of three from Huntington. Her boyfriend, 36 year old Jeb Daly reported her missing Saturday night, but

police believe he knew all along she wasn't going to be found. As police questioned him Sunday afternoon, they found a body hidden in a cardboard box behind the home they shared. Daly took ran out of the house, leading to a manhunt. Police caught up with him several hours later. In court Monday, he was arraigned on charges of misleading police and improper disposal of a body and ordered held on \$100,000 bail. But more charges may follow once an autopsy is complete. The situation is heartbreaking for Dana's family, and a shock to the neighborhood. But it was obvious to their neighbors, something wasn't right. The couple was allegedly fighting Friday night, the last night Jessica Dana was seen alive. And the last time her three young children saw their mother. Jeb Daly has a long criminal history including charges of breaking and entering, larceny and burglary. A memorial fund has been set up in Jessica Dana's name at Westfield bank. Her family told 22News the family is struggling to afford a funeral for the mother of three.

News **06/26/12** **6pm** **:30**

A Springfield man is facing charges after getting caught on camera stabbing a neighbor's dog, twice. We are not going to show you the dog getting stabbed, but Springfield police arrested David Montes on four charges, including assault and battery with a dangerous weapon and animal cruelty. This is the fight that led up to the dog being stabbed all caught on a cell phone camera. It happened on Palmer Avenue in Springfield's South End on Friday June 7th. This is David Montes. The pit bull did not provoke Montes, as he stabbed twice. You can hear cries for help in the background. The dog later had to be put down because of its injuries.

News **06/26/12** **5pm** **:30**

20 year old Kellie Park of West Haven, Connecticut has been accused of abusing her 10-month old son and sending a video of the abuse to the boy's father. Police say Park is seen on the video, throwing food at the child and shaking a portable crib. She also allegedly sent a text to the boy's father, which said, "I'll break the baby's' face" and "I love abusing your kid." She was arrested on June 20th and faces assault charges. She will appear in court on July 1st.

News **06/27/12** **5:30pm** **:30**

Two people face drunken driving allegations after separate overnight highway crashes involving Massachusetts state police cruisers. State police said a 25-year-old woman from Weymouth was driving the wrong direction on Route 24 in Randolph early this morning when she struck four other vehicles, including a state police cruiser. The trooper was not hurt. A short time later, in Newton, a state trooper working a construction detail on the Mass Pike was treated for minor injuries after a car slammed into the rear of his cruiser. The driver of the car, a 30-year-old man from Reading, was hospitalized after the crash.

News **06/27/12** **5pm** **:30**

Police in Lynn are looking for a suspect in a violent attempted robbery which is all caught on camera. The woman in this surveillance video is the woman police are looking for. The victim hangs on to her purse and eventually sends the suspect running. But the multiple security cameras at Lynn-way Liquors captured the suspect pacing outside the store before the attack. The suspect is described as a white, 5 foot 8 inch tall female with dark shoulder length hair.

News **06/27/12** **11pm** **:30**

It's another example why crime just doesn't pay. Brockton Police say a would-be thief got more than he bargained for when he tried to rob a store after hours. Police say 54-year-old Manuel Fernandes tried to break in to a Rent-a-Center through a storage bay last night. But when he tried to squeeze underneath a roll-up door, it fell back on his head, trapping him. A manager opening the store found Fernandez nearly nine hours later and took video of the man's ordeal.

News **06/29/12** **6pm** **:30**

Andrea Waldo of Huntington has been given a one year jail sentence for a crash that killed a couple from Easthampton. Prosecutors said Waldo's SUV crossed the center line of Route 202 in July of 2011 and crashed head-on into car driven by Kathleen and Martin Tessier, Jr. Waldo was sentenced to five years in jail, for two counts of vehicular homicide with all but 12 months suspended. Waldo will be on probation for the remainder of the sentence and she'll lose her driver's license for 15 years.

News **06/29/12** **6pm** **:30**

The boyfriend of a Huntington mother who was found dead outside her home last weekend is now facing murder charges. 36-year-old Jeb Daly denied charges of improper disposal of a body and misleading authorities, during his arraignment at Northampton District Court four days ago. Today he was charged with the murder of 30-year-old Jessica Dana. Dana, a mother of three, was reported missing last Saturday June 23rd. On Sunday her body was found in a cardboard box behind the Huntington home she and Daly shared. Daly has a violent criminal past. He served time in New Jersey for armed robbery, receiving stolen property and burglary. Prosecutors say the upgraded the charges after finding evidence linking Daly to the murder.

News **06/29/12** **5:30pm** **:30**

Springfield police are looking for two men who robbed a package store in East Springfield this morning. The clerk at The Spirit Shoppe on St. James Avenue, who did not wish to speak on camera, said that three men who appeared to have guns came into the store. The clerk said the men then took money from the register and the lottery machine, before getting away. Springfield Police Officer Charles Youmans told 22News a third suspect was arrested this morning. A shot was fired during the robbery, but no one was injured.

News

06/29/12

5pm

:30

Amherst Police are investigating a series of incidents involving naked men. Amherst Police Captain Jennifer Gundersen told 22News it started after police arrested 23-year-old Olandzo Smith at Puffton Village three weeks ago. Smith allegedly exposed himself to several women and was charged with open and gross lewdness. Since then, close to half a dozen incidents involving naked men have been reported to Amherst police.

News

06/29/12

6am

:30

The State Police Narcotics Unit joined forces with the Springfield Police Department to conduct a drug raid. They raided this multi-family home at 74 Sycamore Street at around 8:00 last night. Sgt. Chris Hitas told 22News two men were arrested for drug and firearms charges. Inside the home they found crack cocaine and an illegal handgun.

News

06/30/12

6pm

:30

West Springfield Police Captain Dan Spaulding updated 22News late this afternoon about the arrest of alleged kidnapper and drug dealer Edwin Santos of Holyoke. Captain Spaulding outlined what happened when an FBI agent fired at Santos's car in the Riverdale shops where they tried to arrest him late Friday afternoon, and Santos nearly ran over several police officers while he was trying to escape. The chase led to an apartment complex off of Riverdale street, where Santos allegedly held three people there against their will. It was there the police finally arrested Santos. Captain Spaulding said Santos faces quite a few charges.

The following is WWLP programming addressing Education during the 2nd quarter of 2012. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.

News 04/01/12 11pm : 30

Like many private, Catholic schools, St. Mary's Academy struggles to keep tuition costs down. The school held a fundraising event tonight at the Log Cabin. The schools' principal says it's a challenge to keep up with the competitive market, especially technology for students.

News 04/05/12 5:30pm : 30

The Patrick administration says there's a skills gap in the Massachusetts workforce. Businesses, state officials, and community groups united under the banner of the Coalition for Community Colleges, are promoting Governor Deval Patrick's efforts to improve the community college system. Gathering in the Great Hall of Flags at the State House, coalition members said that while Massachusetts has plenty of job applicants with advanced degree; it doesn't have many with associate degrees or specialized certifications. Officials say that bringing better coordination and unification to the community college system is key in fixing this "middle skills" gap. By collaborating with private industry, they also aim to better address business needs and raise private funding. Critics say the autonomous nature of many independent colleges should be left untouched so as to preserve their local character. Patrick officials say they do not intend to remove local control or interfere with local boards, but they will have the authority to select leadership to incentivize coordination at the state level.

News 04/11/12 11pm : 30

Dean Technical High School was considered a level four underperforming school. A 35-member committee met tonight to discuss how the local business community can help the students. The committee met with the school and students to try to establish partnerships with local businesses' now before they graduate. Low test scores have categorized the Dean Technical High School as "under performing." The state has chosen the school to get help from an educational management organization. Students have seen some change in their peers. They also have seen change in their teachers. Students actually want to come to school more. They want to get involved in sports and school activities. The educational management organization has been involved with turning Dean tech around since last August. There has been some progress made. Dean Tech has three years to show significant improvement or the state can step in and take it over. Dean Tech Futures Advisory Committee met Monday to help the students create partnerships with the business community. Dean Tech Futures Advisory Committee will hold a meeting every month to discuss how to bring students into the workforce.

News

04/23/12

5pm

: 30

The college class of 2012 is in for a rude awakening after graduation. College seniors preparing to graduate face the weakest jobs market in more than a decade. That's according to a new study by the Associated Press. New government data shows that more than half of recent graduates are either jobless or employed in positions that don't even require a college degree. More and more young adults with bachelor's degrees are barely getting by in lower-wage jobs. And that's throwing off their hopes that a degree would pay off, despite higher tuition and mounting student loans which has now exceeded one trillion dollars nationwide. Experts are saying, the choices young adults make earlier in life such as academic training, where to attend college, and how to pay for it are having long-lasting financial impacts. So high-schoolers are now being advised to start planning for college a lot sooner.

News

04/25/12

5:30pm

: 30

The Polish National Credit Union has made saving money easier for students at Chicopee Comprehensive High School. Chicopee Comp became the first Western Massachusetts high school to locate a credit union branch on its premises. Some of the students opened saving accounts.

News

04/25/12

5pm

: 30

Meanwhile, students might need to think long and hard about the college and major they choose in light of the student loan crisis. A new report in USA-Today says that a January Georgetown study showed film video majors have an unemployment rate of 13-percent and make just 30-thousand dollars a year, while nursing majors have an unemployment rate of 4% and make 48,000 a year. At Springfield's Western New England University, they offer students tools to find the right career for them.

News

05/02/12

5pm

: 30

School officials in Amherst are pushing for a later start of the school day. In 2010 the school conducted a survey which found that half of the secondary schools students in the system reported occasionally falling asleep in class. It's a statistic that became a warning sign. This Amherst Regional High School Senior wakes up at 6:15 to get ready for school. He's on a school bus by 7 and sitting in his first period class by 7:45. I think it's safe to say that early in the morning students are a lot less involved we come later to school every second Thursday of the month on those later start days you just notice that everyone is so much more awake. And the lack of sleep having an impact on student performance became a cause for concern for Superintendent Maria Geryk. Since January she's campaigned through five public forums pushing for a later start. The research is very clear about the benefits of secondary students in particular who we consider more at risk. By decreasing issues related to attendance and discipline. Elementary school students will start at 8:15 instead of 8:40. Meanwhile classes for secondary students will start at 9am instead of quarter of eight. It's a shift that will end

school later in the day and affect athletics and after school programs.

We'd have to face the fact in the first year that not everyone who we compete with is going to be in this position and we'd have to be involved in negotiating athletic competition start times. Superintendent Geryk told 22News if the school committee approves the change it will take 16 months before it goes into effect.

News **05/04/12** **5:30pm** **: 30**

How well do you know your geography? Some students say schools don't teach it nearly enough. According to a 2006 National Geographic study, two-thirds of Americans aged 18 to 24 cannot find Iraq on a map. Another half cannot find New York. As part of the Earth View project, educators are touring schools throughout the state, giving thousands of students, mainly in grades 4 to 8, the opportunity to learn about geography from inside a giant model of the Earth. Educators brought their project to the State House where they urged lawmakers to pass legislation to increase geography instruction in primary and secondary schools. Earth View team members say students from poorer countries, like Mexico, typically score higher on geography tests than students in the U.S. With the internet and social media, teachers and students say our world is increasingly becoming smaller.

News **05/04/12** **6am** **: 30**

Parents, teachers and advocates want to make sure Springfield's Teacher Home Visit program keeps growing. 13 city schools have implemented the program which allows teachers to make in-home visits with parents who opt in. It's funded by federal grants and the city. Last night, the program's supporters shared success stories with the Springfield School Committee.

News **05/06/12** **6pm** **: 30**

There's a place in Holyoke called The Homework House for children who've had tough time learning in school. Here at the Holyoke Homework House at the Guadalupe Social Center, students and their families celebrated the tutoring program and all that it's accomplished for children who need extra help to move along with their education. Esmeralda Romero told 22News, The Homework House begun by the Sister's of Providence worked wonders for her daughter. Accolades for the homework center not just from the parents but the children who thrived under the special care given them by compassionate tutoring. The block party honored The Homework House on the completion of its fifth year of helping children in the neighborhood get better grades and building their confidence. No one knew for certain just how many neighborhood children have become better students, but as one parent told 22News, the center has turned around the lives of children who were either facing classroom failure or were close to dropping out of school.

News **05/09/12** **5pm** **: 30**

The results were extremely close, but after five years voters in Southwick approved a district-wide school overhaul. More than 2,600 voters turned out last night. Yes was the popular choice, by just 84 votes. The towns of Southwick, Granville and Tolland make up this

regional school district. Voters in Granville and Tolland already voted "Yes" to the original \$72-million dollar project, but voters in Southwick had rejected it, until the plan was revised. The vote still has the town split.

News **05/09/12** **11pm** **: 30**

Some Franklin county elementary school students got a lesson in healthy living today. First year nursing students from Greenfield Community College hosted a health fair day at the federal street school. The students had six different stations to check out, ranging from dental hygiene, to helmet safety to nutrition. One of the kids' favorite stops was the physical fitness station where they learned that physical activity can go a long way.

News **05/12/12** **11pm** **: 30**

The mother of a Springfield kindergartner was shocked when her child came home with a coloring book featuring alcohol. This is the coloring book that the Dorman School kindergartner brought home. The Springfield school department said it's part of the curriculum to teach children about the dangers of alcohol. But it's raising eyebrows among some parents.

News **05/14/12** **6pm** **: 30**

One local school is already trying to prepare students for the typically dreaded MCAS test. At the Litwin School in Chicopee, students spent the morning getting excited for the MCAS test, yes excited! The mathematics portion of the state mandated test starts Tuesday, so the school held a kick-off assembly to show support for students, who admit, it's a nerve-wracking time of year. Teachers and staff have been preparing students for weeks leading up to the test. They even posted pictures throughout the school of celebrity athletes explaining how math has helped them be successful. Awards were given out to students and then a series of physical challenges followed by an exercise session with a fitness instructor helped students keep their minds clear and get mentally ready for the test. Parent, June Valcinord, say the activities have made the test less daunting for her daughter. Test time is bright and early Tuesday morning!

News **05/18/12** **5:30pm** **: 30**

Controversy over a book that's on the reading list for ninth graders in Springfield Public Schools; the book is entitled "The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian." It's the story of a young boy who grew up on an Indian reservation, and then attends an all white school in a neighboring town. But, throughout the book there are several swear words including the N word. It also makes humorous references to masturbation, shop lifting, alcoholism and anorexia. The book is supposed to be funny, but School Committee Member Antonette Pepe says it goes too far and some parents agree.

News **05/20/12** **6pm** **: 30**

American International College in Springfield honored one of its own today during the graduation of the class of 2012. The more than 1,000 graduates heard from Springfield native and AIC graduate Frank Colaccino, who also received an honorary degree. He's the chairman of the board at the college and he's a prominent real estate developer.

News **05/22/12** **6pm** **: 30**

The Amherst School Committee is just hours away from taking a vote that could change the school schedule. Superintendent Maria Geryk first brought this to the attention of the school committee in late 2010. Since then, a Later Time Task Force made up of parents and educators worked towards informing parents about the benefits of a later start time. Superintendent Geryk says she wants the school committee to consider starting elementary school 25 minutes earlier at 8:40am and high school students will start over an hour later at 9am.

News **05/23/12** **6pm** **: 30**

Springfield Schools are investigating an allegation of cheating on the MCAS exam. The alleged cheating was at Talmadge Elementary School on Allen Street. Springfield public schools spokesperson Azell Cavaan told 22News a parent claims a teacher made suggestions to a student that they had wrong answers on their exam. Cavaan says the accused teacher is still teaching at the school during the investigation. The district will voluntarily report the results of the investigation to the Massachusetts Department of Education, which ultimately determines if a breach in ethics has occurred.

News **05/26/12** **6pm** **: 30**

Hundreds of families crowded under a tent at Holyoke Community College today to watch one-thousand students receive their diplomas. Every student in this sea of caps and gowns has something in common: they set out to accomplish a goal, and they achieved it. But from here, they each head in their own direction. Many of the graduates will continue their educations at other schools. Some students hope their accomplishment will serve as an example to others. Twelve valedictorians were honored during the ceremony for maintaining a 4.0 GPA.

News **05/31/12** **6pm** **: 30**

Budget cuts are looming for the South Hadley School Department. The South Hadley School Committee says the department lost more than \$300,000 dollars in federal stimulus aid and that means it will need to absorb those costs come the next fiscal year. This means it will decrease the amount of money going to special education accounts and the cuts could mean layoffs for some employees. Nancy Blodgett's husband works as a bus driver for the school department. Blodgett told 22News he works with kids who have special needs; they were concerned when they heard the news.

News **06/01/12** **5pm** **: 30**

Their senior year didn't play out exactly how they'd imagined, but today Cathedral High School seniors celebrated their graduation just the same. When the tornado tore through western Massachusetts one year ago, Cathedral High School was one of the many buildings that stood in its path. The Cathedral community was welcomed at Memorial School in Wilbraham. Today 113 Cathedral students were back home in Springfield to receive their diplomas at St. Michael's Cathedral. It was a big adjustment for the students to commute to Wilbraham this year. They said they miss the space and memories from their old building, but it didn't matter where they graduated from as long as they were together.

News **06/05/12** **5pm** **: 30**

A UMass Board of Trustees Committee today approved a 4.9% tuition and fee increase for undergraduate students next year. The increase will, on average, raise tuition and fees by \$580 for in-state undergraduate students during the 2012-2013 academic years. The Board says the 4.9% increase, which applies to all undergraduate and most graduate students will generate \$25 million dollars in net additional revenue. The new rates are expected to receive final approval when the full Board of Trustees meets tomorrow.

News **06/09/12** **11pm** **: 30**

What the Willie Ross School for the Deaf 2012 Graduating Class lacks in numbers, it more than makes up for in ambition and personality. The Willie Ross School in Longmeadow awarded two diplomas tonight; one to Holyoke resident Elvin Maldonado, who started at Willie Ross when he was four years old. And Springfield resident Victor Rosa, who plans to study engineering At Rochester Institute of Technology, which has a program for the hearing impaired.

News **06/10/12** **6pm** **: 30**

As they watched the Agawam high school class of 2012 graduate this afternoon, some, family members remembered how different some things were when they were teenagers. Hundreds of graduates received their diplomas this afternoon at Springfield Symphony Hall. Kirk Jasko came to see his niece graduate.

News **06/30/12** **6pm** **: 30**

It's now the law here in Massachusetts. a teacher's performance in the classroom will matter more than seniority when it comes to who goes and who stays in the event of teacher lay offs Governor Deval Patrick signed the bill which creates a data collection system to test just effective teacher evaluations really are. Jason williams is head of the group that help push the bill through. Williams said the Governor's signing demonstrated Massachusetts commitment to quality education.

The following is WWLP programming addressing Environment during the 2nd quarter of 2012. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.

News

04/01/12

6pm

: 30

After an incredibly warm march we're now starting fresh with the month of April. Now that April is here, we can look back at how truly unusual the month of March really was. In March alone, eight high-temperature records were tied or broken, with some days reaching the 70s and 80s. High temperatures were on average 11 degrees warmer than normal. And because the weather was so unusual, some residents got to enjoy outdoor activities that they wouldn't normally this time of year. Although the weather was mild, it was dry. We had a third of the rainfall compared to a typical March. With such a dry start to the year, the above average rainfall that we need stays west of Massachusetts according to the climate prediction centers monthly forecast. While rainfall should be close to normal, if you liked the temperatures in March, April should be another warmer than normal month for the eastern half of the country.

News

04/07/12

5pm

: 30

State leaders are taking the time celebrate farms across Massachusetts. With spring in full swing, it's time to sow the first seeds in the fields and state officials are marking the occasion by promoting locally grown foods across the Commonwealth. Governor Deval Patrick has proclaimed it Agriculture Day in Massachusetts to promote locally grown produce across the state. The agricultural industry contributes \$490 million annually to the state economy. Since 2007, there's been a 27% growth in the number of farms that Patrick officials say is key to the green economy. Now if you want to learn how to buy local food, non-profit in South Deerfield, its called Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture has set up a list or restaurants and farm shares that you can get in touch with. For more information on festivals, farm shares and where to dine in for locally grown produce.

News

04/10/12

6pm

: 30

A developer, who wants to build wind turbines in Franklin County, is facing opposition from residents. A public hearing begins tonight at 7 at the Buckland Shelburne Elementary School. It's about a petition that a group of Shelburne Falls residents signed. They want to prohibit commercial wind projects and only allow small scale private wind turbines. And Don Field's proposal is considered a large commercial project. Saving money is on many people's mind. So if these wind turbines mean lower electricity bills, many residents told 22News, they are on board. It will help the community. Save money on electricity. But some people say, negative effects will be greater than the benefits. The proposal calls for four industrial size wind turbines to be constructed on the mountain behind me, each of them 480 feet tall. That's three times the height of the Statue of Liberty. And that word, industrial, is

what bothers some people who are against this proposal. Residents will vote on this petition on May 1st. If residents vote it down, there will not be any commercial wind projects allowed in Shelburne Falls. If they vote yes, the zoning board will decide.

News **04/10/12** **5:30pm** **: 30**

This year western Massachusetts has seen its share of unusual weather patterns. And as we welcome spring, atmosphere experts say the unseasonable temperatures have shattered records across the country. Last year, we experienced one of the snowiest winters in recent years, this year it was the winter that never was. And to give you a sense of how much our temperatures have shifted, the average temperature for the month of March in 2011 was 44.8; this year it was 56.4. This was the case all over North America because every state in the nation set at least one daily record high in the month of March. Fred Venne is an educator at the Beneski Museum of Natural History at Amherst College, he told 22News he wouldn't call this a shift in the climate but rather an extreme temperature change that will continue into the summer months.

News **04/13/12** **11pm** **: 30**

Ticks are on the rise this season due to the mild winter we had. Ticks are appearing a lot earlier than normal. It is a threat to children, adults and animals that spend time outside. Ticks are known carriers of many illnesses such as Lyme disease. The two most common types of ticks that are popular in our area are the "deer tick" and the "all American dog tick." Keith Lacross the service manager at Brahman termite & pest elimination agency in Agawam, told 22news some tips to keep ticks from latching on to you. And bike trails like this one are the most common feeding ground for ticks. For more information on how to eliminate ticks in your area you can go to our website at wwlp.com

News **04/22/12** **9am** **: 30**

It's a day over one billion people are celebrating today: Earth Day. And here in western Massachusetts it's no different. Each year, Earth Day is celebrated on April 22nd. Dozens of UMass students will be hosting a clean-up in Amherst, in Springfield; you can get involved by recycling old electronics. Now's your time to get rid of it and while you're at it help your community. Gold Circuit E-Cycling and the Eastfield Mall have joined forces for the 42nd annual Earth Day. There is a fee to recycle depending on the size of the electronic. Laptops, desktop printers, fax, computers are \$5, and computer monitors range from \$5 to \$10 and TVs are \$20. The money raised will benefit the Melha Shriners. You can drop those off at the Eastfield Mall between 10-2pm.

News **04/24/12** **6pm** **: 30**

If you wanted rain for your lawn the last few weeks, you weren't the only one doing a rain dance. Local farmers were also worried about our extended dry spell. Having too little rain or too much rain too quickly can have damaging impacts on locally grown crops. Thankfully at the E. Cecchi Farms in Agawam, our steady rain from Sunday into Monday was the perfect

type of soaking to provide needed water to the crops that were already planted. The heart of planting season doesn't begin until mid-May, but had our stretch of dry weather continued into May, June or July, the effects would have been much worse. Farmers here are already growing strawberries, lettuce, onions, garlic and peas. They've been using a piped irrigation system to water their crops, while the rest of us, until just recently, have been dry.

News **05/01/12** **5pm** **: 30**

Changing the month on our calendar has brought much needed rain to western Massachusetts. The first four months of this year were dry and mild; it looks as though May won't follow that trend. Western Massachusetts started the month of May with splashes and puddles. April didn't bring us many April showers. For the month, we had only about two-thirds of the typical rain for the month and high temperatures averaged 4 degrees warmer than normal. The Climate Prediction Center's forecast for May shows close to normal temperatures and rainfall for western Massachusetts. Average highs for a typical May are around 70 degrees with about 4 inches of rain. Not everyone wants the much needed rain. Even after today's rain, much of western Massachusetts is still in a moderate drought.

News **05/03/12** **6pm** **: 30**

Some western Massachusetts Communities are being singled out for use the sun to save money and the environment. Four more towns have officially become Green Communities. The town of Leverett received a grant from the state today that will help them become more energy efficient. The Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources joined officials from the town in Leverett at Town Hall on Thursday as the town was designated a Green Community. Under the Green Communities Grant Program cities and towns across the state are rewarded for adopting clean energy plans. The grant will allow communities to fund projects in order to conserve energy. Looking at deploying solar on municipal buildings some of the communities look at more energy efficient vehicles one of the communities is looking at deploying bike racks to encourage bicycles in terms of a way to commute. Here in Leverett they're getting over \$138,000 dollars to make energy efficient improvements to the Public Safety Complex, the Library and the Town Hall. The money will go to pay for solar panels for the Public Safety Complex as well as energy efficient lighting upgrades for the Library, Town Hall and Public Safety complex. Leverett and the Western Massachusetts towns of Ashfield, Chesterfield and Rowe are among 86 Massachusetts cities and towns classified as Green Communities. In addition to getting a certificate each town will receive 4 road signs identifying them as an official Green Community.

News **05/11/12** **6pm** **: 30**

We had been experiencing drought conditions this spring but over the last few weeks we've picked up some much needed rainfall. Rivers had been running very low over last the few months but today the Connecticut River is back up to 6 feet at the Springfield Yacht Club in Agawam. So far this month we've picked up close to 2 inches of rain which has really helped with the rainfall deficit we had during March and April. People 22News talked to are still concerned we could see the dry conditions return.

News **05/21/12** **6pm** **: 30**

We've continued our recent pattern of dry weekends and wet starts to the work week. 22News storm team meteorologist Nick Bannin is live in Agawam to explain. While we still need more rain, the majority of western Massachusetts is now out of a drought. A drought is determined by looking at precipitation deficits, ground water, reservoir and river levels, and fire danger. Recent rainfall has brought almost all of western Massachusetts out of drought except Eastern Hampden and far Eastern Hampshire County. We haven't noticed many effects of the drought so far. That would be different if our drought came in the summer months.

News **06/04/12** **5:30pm** **: 30**

We might not be mild now, but the weather we had earlier this year is having an effect on fruit. Get out your fruit baskets, strawberries are out there and ready for picking. At Lakeside Pick Your Own Strawberries in Hadley, strawberry picking has never started as early as this. In the 25 years they've been in business, most strawberry picking has started in mid-June. This year, owner Joe Czajkowski was able to open up his field for picking at the end of May; a change that was most likely caused by the weather.

News **06/06/12** **5:30pm** **: 30**

For almost a week we've been cloudy, cool and damp. We've had a good stretch of on and off showers and temperatures below normal. While the sun has poked through the clouds at times, we've struggled to get prolonged sunshine. Our recent weather pattern is all due to the location of the jet stream. The jet stream is an area of fast-moving winds high in the sky that guides storm systems and separates cool air to the north and warmer air to the south. For days now, the jet stream has dipped well south of Massachusetts, bringing in cool and moist air from Canada. This has kept us cool and showery for days.

News **06/13/12** **5pm** **: 30**

If you suffer from allergies, spending time outside may have been uncomfortable recently. It turns out pollen levels are unusually high for this time of year. According to Springfield allergist Dr. Robert McGovern, allergies are particularly bad now because tree pollen is lasting later and grass pollen is also out leading to an overlap in allergies, and extra discomfort. This year's unusual weather has contributed to the problem.

News **06/20/12** **6pm** **: 30**

It's not just the air that's hot things we have to touch can be even hotter. This tool instantly measures the temperature of whatever it's pointing to, and you'll be surprised how hot things can get. You might not see the heat, but you'll feel it. Certain surfaces hold the heat better than others, grass stays around 90 degrees. But the sidewalk by 10 in the morning was up to 115. At the playground, those dark slides are hot and could be dangerous, reading 125

degrees. A dark car with a dark interior, 169 degrees on the hood, 175 on the dash and 173 degrees on the seat. Dangerous conditions if a child or pet is left inside for mere minutes.

News

06/28/12

6pm

: 30

Strawberry season started and ended early this year. Now Corn's even being harvested already in one community. Strawberries kick off the berry season. Historically they've been available from father's day until July 4th, but this year was a little different. The weather was a big factor as some places saw strawberries as early as mid-May. But now that the strawberry season is over, blueberries, corn, and raspberries can be found at fruit stands; two weeks earlier than expected.

The following is WWLP programming addressing Government during the 2nd quarter of 2012. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.

News 04/05/12 5:30pm : 30

The Patrick administration says there's a skills gap in the Massachusetts workforce. Businesses, state officials, and community groups united under the banner of the Coalition for Community Colleges, are promoting Governor Deval Patrick's efforts to improve the community college system. Gathering in the Great Hall of Flags at the State House, coalition members said that while Massachusetts has plenty of job applicants with advanced degree; it doesn't have many with associate degrees or specialized certifications. Officials say that bringing better coordination and unification to the community college system is key in fixing this "middle skills" gap. By collaborating with private industry, they also aim to better address business needs and raise private funding. Critics say the autonomous nature of many independent colleges should be left untouched so as to preserve their local character. Patrick officials say they do not intend to remove local control or interfere with local boards, but they will have the authority to select leadership to incentivize coordination at the state level.

News 05/08/12 5:30pm : 30

The state faces a shortfall in tax revenue. The Patrick administration is giving assurances even though tax revenue has been coming in \$180 million lower than projected, they still have the resources to balance the budget and pay off expected costs. The governor's budget chief Secretary Jay Gonzalez hosted a meeting with several local officials from across the state. Gonzalez said even though tax revenues are lower than expected, they're higher than last year. He added that Lottery revenue is up, which can fill the cost gaps and allow the state to avoid spending cuts. Local officials were also given the opportunity to air out their concerns. Easthampton mayor Michael Tautznik spoke out against Senate-passed tax exemptions to solar-electric companies. Tautznik said he hopes to get the governor and House onboard to strike out those tax bonuses that he says are at the expense of local taxpayers.

News 05/08/12 11pm : 30

Springfield's finance team says the city is in trouble, spending is about to outpace city revenues. Springfield Mayor Domenic Sarno went to Beacon Hill today to ask the House Speaker and the senate president for more local aid. Mayor Sarno was not at tonight's city council meeting, but we asked Springfield's chief administrator why the city is facing a financial crisis. At the rate they're spending, the city of Springfield will be in debt by fiscal year 2016 unless the city can cut expenses by more than 60 million dollars. Springfield's

Mayor Domenic Sarno was in Boston on Monday, giving a Budget Overview presentation. He explained that a decrease in the state aid and a decrease in revenues from property taxes are just a couple reasons why the city's budget may be in trouble. The finance team said the recent proposal to raise the trash fee is part of an effort to bring in more revenue. And they are hopeful the state will provide some sort of help. Springfield's chief financial officer said residents do not have to worry about their taxes going up because of this crisis. Springfield has already reached their tax rate ceiling, but the door is still open for fees to go up.

News **05/17/12** **11pm** **: 30**

As federal officials look to slash the trillion dollar national deficit, leaders are fighting to protect the state's six military bases from budget cuts. Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray announced an expansion of the state task force charged with preserving the bases. Four new subcommittees have been created to help document the strategic and economic importance of the bases. Murray told 22News it's an "all hands on deck" approach that will help avoid defense budget cuts.

News **05/21/12** **5:30pm** **: 30**

City Council Presidents from the state's three largest cities are teaming up to talk budget strategy. City Council President Jimmy Ferrera says Springfield faces about a \$27 million dollar budget gap and needs to find ways to reduce costs. Ferrera noted that both Worcester and Boston are not in the Group Insurance Commission, which is the state's health insurance plan for public workers. Ferrera said there may be an opportunity for Springfield to realize savings by negotiating a better insurance rate for the city through a private company. 22News was there when city council presidents from Springfield, Worcester and Boston met for a special meeting at Boston City Hall. They discussed the possibility of special legislation to bump up the 2.5% cap on property tax. To avoid new taxes and fees, the trio agreed to have school; police and public works department heads from each city meet to share ideas on cost-cutting measures. The three plan to schedule another two meetings together in Worcester and Springfield.

News **05/25/12** **6pm** **: 30**

The Senate has approved a \$32 billion state budget. After three days of debate on the state budget, the Senate increased funds for cities and towns, education and made reforms to address welfare fraud and executive pay. The Senate unanimously passed a \$32 billion state budget that closes a more than \$1 billion budget gap and borrows \$290 million from the state's rainy day fund. Like the House, the Senate budget contains no new taxes or fees. Following some heated debate, the Senate approved welfare fraud reforms than ban EBT card use in liquor stores, casinos and strip clubs and takes steps toward creating a cashless system. The Senate also debated senior executive salaries at mutual companies. Senators attacked Liberty Mutual's chairman Ted Kelly for receiving \$50 million dollars annually. They approved an amendment that requires mutual companies to provide disclosure on compensation and creates a committee to review and approve executive pay. The Senate version of the state budget is not final. They will have to consolidate their bill with the House-

passed bill and then that must be approved by the governor.

News **05/25/12** **5pm** **: 30**

The state senate has approved a budget amendment that prohibits welfare recipients from using Electronic Benefit Transfer cards in liquor stores, casinos or strip clubs. The measure that passed late Thursday would also allow the cards to be used to pay transit fares. The new restrictions on EBT purchases add to others already in the Senate budget, including guns, pornography, tattoos and body piercings. Differences between the Senate and House-passed budget amendments still have to be worked out.

News **06/01/12** **5:30pm** **: 30**

Governor Deval Patrick has signed a new law that helps Massachusetts veterans. The Valor Act increases support for veteran owned businesses, Gold Star Families, military children and access to higher education in Massachusetts. Governor Deval Patrick signed the Act on Thursday. The bill provides greater access to financial assistance for small businesses creates public job opportunities for disabled veterans and makes it easier for military kids to transfer between school districts. It also expands a relief fund for Gold Star Families. The fund gets money from a voluntary tax box placed on income tax returns and helps defray food, housing and other costs spent by service members and their families. Lieutenant Governor Tim Murray said this past Memorial Day weekend gives the Valor Act greater meaning in reminding us to honor our brave military servicemen and women. More than 385,000 veterans currently live in Massachusetts, including 37,000 men and women who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

News **06/02/12** **6pm** **: 30**

Massachusetts Democrats will head into the primary this fall under a united front. Elizabeth Warren garnered nearly 96% of delegators' votes in today's endorsing convention. There's one thing the thousands of Democrats at today's endorsing convention have in common: they want the late Ted Kennedy's US Senate seat back from Republicans and back from Scott Brown. But not every Democrat stands behind Warren. Governor Deval Patrick called the crowd to action, saying the shape of America's future is in our hands.

News **06/04/12** **11pm** **: 30**

Senator Scott Brown has congratulated his Democratic opponent, Elizabeth Warren, for winning her party's endorsement. Now, he wants a debate. The Republican senator issued a statement today saying he looks forward to a "spirited campaign." Brown accepted a debate invitation WBZ radio in Boston and wants Warren to join him. Warren said Saturday after winning her party's endorsement that she will debate Brown and that she is ready. She won nearly 96 percent at the state convention, avoiding a primary.

News **06/18/12** **5:30pm** **: 30**

An international conference in Massachusetts is expected to attract thousands of scientists from around the world. This week will be peppered with jobs announcements and collaborations between Massachusetts and other countries. More than 15,000 people working in the bio-tech and life sciences industries are expected to attend the International Bio Convention in Boston. The event coincides with the 4-year anniversary of a \$1 billion life sciences bill signed by Governor Deval Patrick which promised to create 250,000 jobs over a decade. A Boston Globe report suggests those projections have fallen short, with the life sciences industry adding nearly 9,000 jobs to date. The governor disagrees. Patrick said he will announce new companies and thousands of new jobs that will be added to Massachusetts in the coming days. The Senate President also plans to announce a multinational collaboration on throat cancer detection as well as a major US-EU health conference scheduled for this fall.

News

06/22/12

11pm

: 30

First term Holyoke mayor Alex Morse is demonstrating that he's a hands-on leader who's available. The mayor went before the Ward 7 Neighborhood Watch tonight at the White School on Jefferson Street. He talked about his vision for Holyoke how he wants to bring more people and businesses downtown, and for people to feel safe in downtown Holyoke.

The following is WWLP programming addressing Health-Smoking during the 2nd quarter of 2012. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.

News 04/01/12 11pm : 30

The Food and Drug Administration says it wants the tobacco industry to tell consumers about every harmful chemical in cigarettes. The agency also says any claims of a "reduced harm" product, such as smokeless tobacco, has to be backed up. There are more than seven thousand chemicals in tobacco products and the FDA says 93 of them are harmful. That list includes formaldehyde, nicotine and arsenic.

News 04/02/12 5:30pm : 30

The Springfield Housing Authority launched its first phase of its smoke free policy today, requiring that all indoor areas be free of smoke. Housing Authority Executive director William Abrashkin announced the new policy after a survey of the residential owners showed an overwhelming support for the smoke-free environment. He says the new policy is an important step to protect children against dangerous conditions such as asthma and other respiratory diseases caused by tobacco smoke.

News 04/04/12 5:30pm : 30

Adult dental benefits covered by MassHealth are on the chopping block in the upcoming state budget. Oral health advocates are rallying against cuts to dental benefits for adult Mass Health members which they say leaves one out of ten Massachusetts residents without coverage. Advocates filled the House Member's Lounge in the State House, speaking out against cuts implemented since July 2010 that eliminates coverage for fillings, treatments of gum disease and dentures. Currently, cleanings and extractions are the only services covered under MassHealth. Critics fire back that people with MassHealth often do not keep their appointments, provoking many dentists not to accept MassHealth. Advocates said that is no reason to cut the benefits. South Hadley Representative John Sciback said limited dental benefits contributes to higher instances of oral disease, diabetes, and even cardiac problems, which could end up costing the state more than it save. Advocates add 60 million work hours are lost in the Commonwealth due to problems with oral health.

News 04/10/12 5:30pm : 30

Should medical marijuana be legalized in Massachusetts? Legalizing marijuana for medicinal purposes is shaping up to be a question on the ballot this November, unless the Legislature steps in and decides to take up the bill themselves, which they are currently considering. Cancer survivors, spinal cord injury patients, sufferers of chronic pain, they all gathered at the State House Tuesday to testify in favor of a petition that would regulate access to medical

marijuana in Massachusetts. Proponents argue that marijuana, used appropriately, is a medicine that effectively reduces symptoms of chronic pain. But opponents fire back that the drug is addictive and attracts violence. But supporters turned in their own studies, which indicate that regulated medical marijuana by doctors and certified dispensaries cuts out the black market, reduce crimes and promotes safety and security. Advocates say it is unlikely the Legislature will act on this bill, in which case they will need to collect an additional 11-thousand signatures before July to ensure that legalizing medical marijuana will be on the November ballot.

News **04/11/12** **11pm** **: 30**

Legalizing marijuana for medicinal purposes is shaping up to be a question on the ballot this November unless the Legislature steps in and decides to take on the bill. Cancer survivors and those who suffer from chronic pain all gathered at the state house today to testify in favor of a petition that would regulate access to medical marijuana. Advocates say it is a medicine that effectively reduces symptoms of pain. But opponents say that the drug is addictive and attracts violence.

News **04/12/12** **5:30pm** **: 30**

Advocates say it shouldn't be a crime to have a mental illness. Advocates say that in many cases, people with mental illness cannot control their behaviors or reactions. They're calling on lawmakers to fund crisis intervention training for police officers so that they recognize the difference between when a person should go to jail or go to the hospital. Advocates say people with mental illness are overcrowding jails for minor crimes. In western Massachusetts, advocates say they've had success training the Amherst police force so that they know how to approach people with mental illness. Advocates are also concerned about the closing of the Taunton State Hospital in southeastern Massachusetts, forcing patients to travel to Worcester in its place. They fear the same fate could happen in western Massachusetts where overcrowding is already an issue.

News **04/14/12** **6pm** **: 30**

How to stay healthy was on the minds of hundreds of Springfield families who made sure to attend today's health fair at the Dunbar community center; and that's why so many people in the Mason Square neighborhood put aside this Saturday to learn all they can about being healthy and staying healthy. Not every came for the same reason. And there was medical testing to go along with the information. This was the kind of health fair where even the very young could benefit from, especially when it can affect their health now and in the future. The over riding message from groups such as The Mason Square Task Force is that what you don't know can certainly hurt you. That awareness is the first step to knowing how to take better care of you. This health fair for families had been designed to bridge that information gap, to make certain people are informed about the illnesses that can cut short one's life or prevent them from living life to the fullest.

News **04/30/12** **5:30pm** **: 30**

Your Health Insurance premiums are only going up a little bit. Base rates for Massachusetts health insurance are increasing at an average of 1.2%. To give you perspective, in 2010, rate increases averaged between 8% and 9%. Small-group insurance rates are released quarterly and according to the Massachusetts Division of Insurance, this is the second quarter in a row that the base rate increase averaged less than 2%. Some insurance companies like Tufts and Fallon even filed decreases in their rates. Governor Deval Patrick said his administration has been working with insurance carriers to negotiate lower rates. Governor Patrick said health care cost containment remains an urgent matter in Massachusetts. Patrick said it was "terrific" that the Senate plans to debate health care payment reform in mid-May, more than a year after he filed a bill to address skyrocketing health care costs.

News **05/03/12** **5am** **: 30**

A new survey says some teens smoke marijuana at least 20 times a month. The use of cocaine and methamphetamine has stabilized, but the use of marijuana grew from 19% to 27% in the last three years. Parents and students in western Massachusetts told 22News drug abuse is a growing problem everywhere, but parents and teachers can help reverse that trend. The survey said abuse of prescription drugs remains high, as well.

News **05/04/12** **5pm** **: 30**

A new health care bill unveiled today at the statehouse this afternoon could save the state billions. According to house leader it would save the state's economy more than \$160 billion over the next 15 years. Require doctor's offices to convert to electronic medical records by 2017, reduce premiums for patients who show they're committed to maintaining their health and following their doctor's advice; and create a new consumer website with detailed comparative price and quality information for medical procedures, hospitals and insurers.

News **05/16/12** **11pm** **: 30**

They had a full house at tonight's school board meeting at Southwick-Tolland Regional High School in Southwick. Dozens of school employees showed up to voice their concerns about recent changes to their health insurance policies. The former plan required employees to pay 50 percent of their premiums, but they didn't have to pay a deductible. Their new premiums are lower, but employees say paying deductibles will ultimately take way more out of their pockets, and they didn't have a say in the decision.

News **05/18/12** **6pm** **: 30**

It's a disease that kills more people than HIV every year, and most patients don't even know they have it. Yes, it's hepatitis C and those who were born between 1946 and 1964 are at high risk. 100,000 people in Massachusetts are hepatitis C positive and 75 percent of those infected are unaware of it. Today, Tapestry Health's Needle Exchange Program held their first ever Hepatitis Testing Day. They offered free testing in Northampton. The baby boom

generation is at a very high risk of hepatitis C or was at that time so it's very important for that age group to come in and get tested. And that's because the CDC says one in 30 baby boomers has been infected with hepatitis C. The Needle Exchange program is one of the first agencies in the country to provide rapid test results with the help of OraQuick a newly FDA approved test that can give results in 20 minutes. Hepatitis C affects the liver and can lead to liver cancer. To find more clinics that offer testing and more information about Hep C, visit our website, WWLP.com.

News **05/21/12** **12pm** **: 30**

The state's largest doctors' organization is taking a stand against a proposed ballot question that would allow marijuana use for medical reasons. The Massachusetts Medical Society approved a resolution at its annual meeting this past weekend opposing legalization of medicinal marijuana without scientific studies proving it would be safe and effective. The group representing about 24,000 doctors did call on the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration to reclassify marijuana to permit more studies on its possible medical benefits.

News **05/27/12** **11pm** **: 30**

Attorney General Martha Coakley has moved to dismiss a petition to the state's highest court by a group that opposes a proposed ballot question that would legalize medical marijuana. The Massachusetts Prevention Alliance wants the Supreme Judicial Court to change the wording of the ballot question. They claim the current wording hides major parts of the proposed law, such as the network of marijuana dispensaries that would have to be created to comply with it.

News **05/30/12** **5pm** **: 30**

A company that owns three malls in western Massachusetts will implement a new policy, starting tomorrow. Starting tomorrow at 10 am, smoking will be banned both inside and outside Holyoke Mall, Hampshire Mall and the Berkshire Mall. That includes in front of entrances, hallways, sidewalks and parking lots. This tobacco free policy bans all tobacco and tobacco related products like cigarettes, cigars, pipes, chewing tobacco and electronic cigarettes. And it will apply to all Holyoke Mall associates, tenant employees, vendors, delivery people, contractors and guests. Holyoke Mall's marketing director Lisa Wray told 22News, tomorrow, Thursday May 31st is also World No Tobacco Day, a tobacco free initiative sponsored by the World Health Organization.

News **05/31/12** **5pm** **: 30**

Hampshire Mall is now officially, a "tobacco free zone." Smoking inside is already prohibited in Massachusetts. But Hampshire Mall's new policy could be redefining the ban once again. No smoking. That's a sign we often see. But the Hampshire Mall is taking the smoking ban one step further. Now, no one will be allowed to smoke inside or outside the Hadley Mall even if you are inside your car. The smoking ban comes nearly five years after the management company enforced the same policy at its Syracuse Mall, the Carousel

Center. Mall supervisors say the policy will affect break times, as employees will have to drive to find somewhere to smoke. Some of them still think they will find somewhere to smoke around here even though it's tobacco free but I don't think they will. But this policy is not only affecting smokers it's also affecting businesses; for the first time in 10 years, this newsstand which is located inside the mall's food court will no longer be selling cigarettes. This policy is also being enforced at the Holyoke and Berkshire Malls.

News **05/31/12** **11pm** **: 30**

Starting tomorrow, smoking will be prohibited anywhere on the property at the Holyoke, Hampshire and Berkshire Malls. The new "Tobacco Free Policy" bans the use of cigarettes, cigars, pipes, chewing tobacco and electronic cigarettes. And it applies not to just all employees, but customers too. The policy is popular among some shoppers, who told 22News other malls should adopt this policy.

News **06/04/12** **5:30pm** **: 30**

Lawmakers are reviewing a bill this week that would allow people to use coupons to get discounts on prescription drugs. But not everyone has insurance. Many are paying hundreds, even thousands of dollars on prescription medications. But even those with insurance could be paying less if a new bill passes. And, Massachusetts is the only state in the nation that does not allow people to use coupons toward their prescriptions. We lead the nation in so many ways on health care reform, health care cost and containment policy. We've lagged the nation on this one, it's unacceptable. This week, Senator Mike Knapik of Westfield will lead a committee reviewing a bill that will allow coupons for brand name prescription drugs. Opponents say the coupons will drive up healthcare costs, but Senator Knapik disagrees. The state of Rhode Island was the last state and they conducted a study over the last few years to see if costs in fact went up and they found that all things being equal, costs were actually reduced for health care issues. The state would still keep in place a requirement for doctors to offer generic medications first, but savings could finally be on the way for those on prescription drugs when the Senate votes on the issue by the end of June.

News **06/15/12** **5:30pm** **: 30**

You've heard of halls of fame for athletes and rock stars, but what about a hall of fame for people who have kicked the habit. We'll there's one now in Northampton. This is not your "every day" hall of fame. When you walk into Forbes library the first thing you see to the right are pictures of faces. The photos have stories about long-term smokers. When they started smoking, how long they smoked, and why and how they quit. The exhibit is being hosted by the library but it's sponsored by the Hampshire Council of Governments Tobacco Free Partnership. It's to recognize the library going smoke-free on July 1st.

News **06/20/12** **11pm** **: 30**

Some companies plan to launch programs that will encourage people to recycle used cigarette filters. Cigarette filters are not biodegradable. Beginning in July, TerraCycle, a

small business based in Trenton, New Jersey, will provide free shipping so people can mail in the butts they've collected. Those filters will be recycled into plastic pallets. Some western Massachusetts residents told 22News, this is a good idea but they weren't sure how effective it will be.

News **06/23/12** **9am** **: 30**

As part of National HIV Testing Day yesterday, hundreds of Springfield residents took advantage of a free clinic on Union Street. The New North Citizens' Council and Springfield Urban League partnered with Baystate Health to offer free testing at Gospel Fest 2012. Organizers told 22News more than five hundred people visited the health providers and community vendors there. More than a hundred visitors took the free HIV tests.

News **06/28/12** **6pm** **: 30**

Although Massachusetts has already made most of the changes required under the health care mandate the state is still struggling to afford the costs. And the federal mandate may not make that any easier. In many ways the Supreme Court decision Thursday upholding the major parts of President Obama's health care law was anticlimactic here in Massachusetts. But doctors and hospitals are still preparing for the fallout in particular our share of the cost of insuring every American. Baystate Health says it can meet those challenges by changing how it provides care using physicians more effectively, encouraging home care and relying on technology. Urgent care centers like Doctors Express are also expanding opening new locations, to capitalize on the lack of primary care physicians and crowded ERs. The president of Holyoke Medical Center isn't as optimistic. He says patients will ultimately pay the price no matter where they go for care. Massachusetts has already taken a stand on Medicaid reform, so the supreme courts decision to leave it up to the states has little impact. Doctors and hospitals say they have long tried to work with state lawmakers on Medicaid reimbursements as well.

News **06/28/12** **6pm** **: 30**

Massachusetts State health officials said West Nile virus has been detected in a mosquito sample for the first time this year. The Department of Public Health said the infection was confirmed in a sample collected in Boston on June 20. No human cases have been reported. Six cases of West Nile virus were reported last year. People are advised to drain standing water where mosquitoes lay eggs near homes and make sure windows and doors have well-fitting screens to keep out the insects out.

News **06/28/12** **6pm** **: 30**

The U.S. Supreme Court has upheld a Massachusetts-modeled national health care law, so how does the state stand to benefit? State officials say Massachusetts has already seen some of the benefits of the Affordable Care Act in the form of additional federal funding that has helped expand our current health programs. How will Massachusetts benefit from President Obama's national health care law when its core, the requirement that everyone buy

health insurance, was passed in Massachusetts in 2006? Well health advocates say the Affordable Care Act has already helped Massachusetts in many ways. So the primary way Massachusetts will benefit, health officials say, is from more federal funding in the form of tax credits for small businesses and subsidies for low-income individuals to help them pay for health insurance. In August, insurers must provide preventative care like contraception without co-pays, young adults will be able to stay on their parent's health plan until they're 26 years-old, and in 2014, Mass Health will receive nearly \$2 billion in additional federal money over 5 years. State officials said we'll also see more money to expand services in Medicare and Medicaid, including lower prescription drugs costs and free preventative services like mammograms and colonoscopies.

The following is WWLP programming addressing Jobs during the 2nd quarter of 2012. These issues were addressed through our locally produced news programming.

News 04/06/12 6pm : 30

Job growth in March was only half of what it was in February and less than expected. But after a previous prediction that more than 200,000 jobs were added in March, the Labor Department released a report that showed there were just 120,000 additional positions last month. At Futureworks in Springfield, they say the national jobs outlook is a reflection of what's happening locally slow, steady growth. Manufacturing added jobs, but healthcare, which was adding jobs for so long, so a huge drop in the number of jobs added. But the prospect for a better economy is still bright. Some promising news for those who have been struggling to find work for so long.

News 04/11/12 6pm : 30

Planting the seed for the future; that's what a youth career opportunities fair was looking to do today. Last year the fair saw 260 students and young adults looking to find a job or information on career opportunities. This morning, the Franklin Hampshire Career Center hosted 13 employers looking to fill positions. The employers ranged from the Yankee Candle Company to the Athol YMCA; who was looking for summer camp counselors. The theme was inspired by speed dating; job seekers were paired in groups and had five minutes to talk to employers.

News 04/12/12 5pm : 30

Middle school students were given an opportunity to see what careers are available to them. During the Unified Arts Career Fair at West Springfield Middle School, today several different businesses showed students the types of careers they might want to think about. The students said this helps give them an idea of what they might want to do in life.

News 04/12/12 12pm : 30

On the economic front, more people sought unemployment benefits last week pushing the number of applicants to the highest level in two months. The Labor Department says weekly unemployment benefit applications jumped 13,000 to 380,000. After steadily declining since last fall, applications have leveled off in recent weeks.

News 04/19/12 5:30pm : 30

Job estimates show that unemployment is down in the Commonwealth, depending on whether the estimates can be trusted. But first, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Massachusetts employers added 8,700 jobs in March, reducing the unemployment rate to 6.5 percent. The March gains represent the third consecutive month of job growth in

the Commonwealth, which totals nearly 30,000 jobs added since the beginning of the year. About 225,000 people remain unemployed, but the state remains well below the national average of 8.2%. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics has stumbled on controversy recently for revising Massachusetts job estimates in 2011 to show that it gained thousands fewer jobs than originally believed. According to Governor Patrick, the federal agency later corrected itself again, saying that the original numbers were probably correct, a bungle the governor called "frustrating."

News

04/26/12

5:30pm

: 30

150 former Hasbro employees, who were temporarily laid off, found out this week their jobs in East Longmeadow have been permanently eliminated. Some of these union workers have been out of work for a year. Yesterday, the 150 or so affected employees got their final termination notice in the mail. I talked with one former employee. He didn't want us to use his name or show his face on camera. A red flag was raised when these employees weren't asked to come back this spring, but when the final notice came this week; it gave them very little time to get their lives in order. These former employees will receive a severance package from the toy and game maker. It gives them a half weeks pay for every year they've been with the company. But they have to pay back their health insurance since they've been laid off. In October, Hasbro Vice President of Corporate Communications Gary Serby told 22News they had hoped to hire the employees back by the end of January 2012. In response to these actions, Serby sent the 22News I-team this statement. In part it says, in 2012, The East Longmeadow facility has been operating very efficiently. Hasbro expects this to continue, which means we will not be recalling certain employees who have been out on temporary layoff. Serby told the 22News I-Team, the East Longmeadow plant has about 330 union employees and in the past several years Hasbro has invested around \$25 million dollars into the East Longmeadow facility to improve productivity. To read Hasbro's complete statement, you can log onto WWLP.com.

News

05/05/12

11pm

: 30

Unemployment figures are down from last month and from this time last year. According to the Labor Department's April jobs report 86-million people have given up on their job searches. But tonight, you're going to meet one Springfield family that fell off the unemployment line for an entirely different reason. When cousins Timothy and Marcella Spruell look at this empty space on State Street, they see a world of possibility. After losing her job in the healthcare field, Marcella found herself among the millions of unemployed Americans. Then, she had an idea. Marcella's parents used to run Family Kitchen on Saint James Ave in Springfield. Marcella and Timothy took advantage of free business ownership training provided by the Massachusetts Latino Chamber of Commerce. And that's when Marcella's Family Kitchen was born. Now, they're just months away from opening the doors to their dream. They'll be serving authentic Caribbean and Soul Food. And already, people are asking to be part of it. Marcella's Family Kitchen expects to open towards the end of June. In just a few weeks, they'll be interviewing applicants and hiring their first ten employees.

News **05/17/12** **5:30pm** **: 30**

Good news for job seekers, Massachusetts continued to add jobs, according to the office of Labor and Workforce Development. The state's unemployment rate is now at 6.3%, after adding more than 31,000 jobs in the first four months of 2012. April's jobless rate is the lowest in Massachusetts since October 2008 when the rate stood at 6.1%.

News **05/17/12** **5pm** **: 30**

Some welcome news for Massachusetts; the state jobless rate is down. The Office of Labor and Workforce Development released the numbers this morning, and it's good news for those looking land a job. Massachusetts added 2,500 jobs over the month of April, a gain that brought down the jobless rate .2% points from 6.5% to 6.3%, well below the national rate of 8.1%. But there are still more than 200,000 people without a job.

News **05/18/12** **5am** **: 30**

Workers at a Coca-Cola bottling plant in Connecticut have gone on strike. More than 350 members of the local Teamsters union at the plant in East Hartford are asking for either a pay raise or to keep their current health benefits. Their contract expired in December. The company said in a statement it is disappointed by the strike but is looking forward to negotiations. The strike is not expected to disrupt delivery of Coca-Cola products.

News **05/18/12** **11pm** **: 30**

The Postal Service is moving forward with a two-point-one- billion-dollar cost-saving plan to consolidate postal plants over the next two years. The consolidations will start in July. The cuts will be limited in 2012, with 48 plants slated to consolidate or close in July and August impacting five-thousand employees. When the plan is fully implemented at the end of 2014, 229 plants will consolidate or close and 28-thousand jobs will be gone. For customers, the plans will mean slower delivery for most mail but not until 2014.

News **05/19/12** **11pm** **: 30**

Most people know that the lower the unemployment rate the better, but many don't know what factors determine the number. Kevin Lynn of the Futureworks Career Center told 22News the unemployment number is based on the number of people without a job that are looking for work. It does not include people who have stopped trying or are on permanent disability.

News **05/22/12** **6pm** **: 30**

There's a loophole in state law that forces businesses to pay unemployment benefits to workers caught stealing, drinking or doing drugs on the job. In some cases, employers have to pay benefits to those workers if they lack a specific written policy preventing such behavior. Senator Brian Joyce introduced an amendment changing the state unemployment law and

removing that loophole. Some people say it's in the state's best interest.

News **05/23/12** **6pm** **: 30**

The state unemployment rate is nearly 2 percent lower than the national average. Massachusetts's unemployment rate is currently at 6.3% which is much better than the national average of 8.1%. Still, there are areas of Western Massachusetts, Springfield being one, that are even higher than that. The Springfield area's unemployment rate is at the lowest level since November of 2008. In April it fell to 6.8% down from 7.5% in March. But that's the average of towns and cities in the area. Springfield is tipping the scale to the high side with a jobless rate of more than 9%. While Springfield may be high, Amherst has only 3.3% and Northampton is at 4% unemployment.

News **05/23/12** **5pm** **: 30**

Jet engine maker Pratt & Whitney is cutting 300 salaried jobs in the United States, including 200 in Connecticut. A spokesman for the East Hartford based subsidiary of United Technologies Corp. said the cuts come as the company tries to keep staffing in line with business and economic conditions. High fuel costs and the weak economic recovery also are pressuring the company's airline customers. A company spokesman did not specify which jobs are being cut.

News **06/01/12** **12pm** **: 30**

The U.S. economy suddenly looks a lot weaker. U.S. employers created only 69,000 jobs in May the fewest in a year and the unemployment rate has gone up. The dismal jobs data will fan fears that the economy is sputtering. It also puts President Obama on the defensive five months before his re-election bid. And it could lead the Federal Reserve to take further steps to help the economy. The Labor Department also said the unemployment rate rose to 8.2% from 8.1% in April the first increase in 11 months. The Dow Jones industrial average fell more than 160 points in the first half hour of trading.

News **06/07/12** **5pm** **: 30**

This week marks the 100th anniversary of the minimum wage law that started in Massachusetts. In 1912, the law only applied to women and children now it applies to everyone. The Massachusetts Legislature is now debating a bill to raise minimum wage from \$8.00 an hour to \$10.00; a move that would affect more than a half a million workers.

News **06/13/12** **11pm** **: 30**

Gone are the days when the last day of school sent teenagers to submit one application and begin working at their summer job almost immediately. Summer jobs are disappearing for teens. Teen jobs have been on the decline for more than a decade, but unemployment for 16-19 year olds is now at the lowest since World War II. Many adults fondly remember the odd jobs they held and friendships they made during their teenage summers. But more than

70% of today's teens won't have those same memories, made while scooping ice cream cones or bussing tables. First of all they need to dress for success. And aside from that you've got to love people. When our candidates apply online we want to make sure they're very good with people. Going out there smiling, having fun, being interactive, engaging in conversation. The Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts teen employment might never return to the way it was before the recession. But there is still some hope. It takes over 3,500 employees to keep Six Flags running, and they're currently hiring all positions.

News **06/14/12** **5:30pm** **: 30**

One positive indicator that economic conditions in the bay state may be turning around, the Office of Labor and Workforce Development released new figures today showing the state's jobless rate fell to 6% in May. That's down from 6.3% in April. The Massachusetts rate was well below the national jobless rate of 8.2 percent. The latest figures find the state added nearly 38,000 jobs in the first five months of this year, with the largest gains coming in the professional, scientific, and business services sectors.

News **06/15/12** **5:30pm** **: 30**

The state's unemployment rate fell to the lowest level in three years last month. But while more jobs are being added, people are still having a tough time finding them. Twenty-six employers, from Bay State Health, to the Gap and Sears were at Heritage State Park today; they were met by hundreds of job seekers with resumes in hand, all hoping to get a step closer to earning a paycheck. 70% of teenagers will have a tough time finding a job this summer. For job seekers it's a different playing field than it was years ago. With limited options and plenty of competition, people with all different qualifications have their eyes on the same basic positions. To learn more about how Career Point might be able to assist you in your job search, visit our website WWLP.com.

News **06/18/12** **5:30pm** **: 30**

An international conference in Massachusetts is expected to attract thousands of scientists from around the world. This week will be peppered with jobs announcements and collaborations between Massachusetts and other countries. More than 15,000 people working in the bio-tech and life sciences industries are expected to attend the International Bio Convention in Boston. The event coincides with the 4-year anniversary of a \$1 billion life sciences bill signed by Governor Deval Patrick which promised to create 250,000 jobs over a decade. A Boston Globe report suggests those projections have fallen short, with the life sciences industry adding nearly 9,000 jobs to date. The governor disagrees. Patrick said he will announce new companies and thousands of new jobs that will be added to Massachusetts in the coming days. The Senate President also plans to announce a multinational collaboration on throat cancer detection as well as a major US-EU health conference scheduled for this fall.

News **06/19/12** **5:30pm** **: 30**

A report released by the state today shows new jobs are being created in Massachusetts. Western Massachusetts is gaining jobs, instead of losing them... but not as quickly as the rest of the state. Promising signs of recovery, companies beginning to hire. But new jobs numbers show Western Massachusetts overall is still rebounding slowly. Our numbers were small compared to the Boston area and we're well behind nearby Pittsfield. Job growth clearly varies depending on the industry and the health care industry is taking the lead. At Health New England, they say innovation is creating the need for more employees. Changes they say new grads should consider when picking a career track. Aside from medical jobs, firefighters, hair stylists, quarry workers and Social and Human Service Assistants all made the list of the fastest growing jobs in western Massachusetts. To view the whole report by the State's Department of Labor and Workforce Development, head to wwlp.com

News **06/25/12** **5:30pm** **: 30**

More than a dozen workers have been cut from the payrolls at Hasbro in East Longmeadow. The toy manufacturer cut 14 jobs at its Western Massachusetts plant June 8th. Hasbro's spokesman Gary Serby told 22News these jobs were office-based non-union positions. He said the affected employees were told about the cuts at the beginning of June. Serby said all of the employees will receive severance. Hasbro announced in March it was cutting 170 jobs in operations in the US and Canada.

News **06/26/12** **5:30pm** **: 30**

New England's unemployment rate is now near its lowest level since January 2009. The New England office of the Bureau of Labor Statistics pegs the region's jobless rate at 6.8% last month, that's down from 6.9% in April. Unemployment has fallen just over 1% in the last year. The national rate is 8.2%. Rhode Island has New England's highest unemployment rate at 11%.

News **06/27/12** **5am** **: 30**

New England's unemployment rate is now near its lowest level since January 2009. The New England office of the Bureau of Labor Statistics put the region's jobless rate at 6.8% last month down from 6.9% in April. Unemployment has fallen just over one percent in the last year. The national rate is 8-point-2 percent. Rhode Island has New England's highest unemployment rate at 11 percent.